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Won't step down from presidential bid: Biden

Following a disastrous performance at the debate stage in Atlanta, there is a growing clamour within the ruling Democratic Party and the mainstream American media for US President Joe Biden to step down from the presidential race. However, the 81-year-old President and his campaign have asserted that he is not giving up and is determined to successfully run for the November 5 presidential elections. "Biden is the nominee of the Democratic Party. No switching of the nominee," his campaign leadership has asserted.

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United Hospital Kalaburagi
Near SVP Chowk
08472 225006

United Hospital Bengaluru
Near Madhavan Park
080 45666666

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, Sri Vishal Gharti S/o Sri Gajendra Singh Gharti residing at No. 28 "Hemadri" Cauvery Layout, Near Coffee Board Layout, H A Farm Post, Dasarahalli, Bangalore 560024, has represented that he has lost the following Original Documents while shifting the house.

1. Sale Deed No.8918-2003-04 Book I, stored in CD No. 100 registered in the office of the Sub Registrar, K R Puram, Bangalore executed by Sri Mohamed Rahamathulla in favour of Sri John William in SRO, K R Puram, Bangalore - Complaint vide Lost Report No. 1054775/2024 dated 16.05.2024.
2. Sale Deed No. BNS-1-04537-2010-11 stored in CD No. BNSD 69 in the office of the Sub Registrar, Banaswadi, Bangalore executed by Sri John William in favour of Sri Vishal Gharti in SRO, Banaswadi, Bangalore - Complaint vide Lost Report No. 104775/2024 dated 16.05.2024.

If any person/s is in possession of the said Original Documents, he/she may please hand over the same either to the undersigned or to the Owner within 15 days from the date of issue of this Public Notice, failing which my Client believing that there are no claims or objections whatsoever, will proceed without original documents and use the Certified Copies of the same to enforce for all future transactions.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No 68 katha No 1347, BBMP Form B Sl.No 734, in Property No. 29/2 situated at Mariyannapalya Village, Dasarahalli Dhakle, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk measuring East to West 50 ft and North to South 30 ft in all measuring 1500 sq ft and bounded on

East by	Road
West by	Private Property
North by	Site No 69
South by	Site No 67.

V MOHAN, Advocate,
No. 229, UAS Layout, Basaveswara Nagar, Shivanahalli Village, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064. MOB: 94485 42407, e-mail: smslegal333@gmail.com

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby notified that my clients propose to purchase the Schedule Property from the owners **Mr.VINAY.S.**, and Mrs.S.Devi, Children of Late.Krishnappa Sampath, Residents of No.19/1, "Gokul Tower", 6th Main Road, Behind Kapali Cinemas, Gandhinagar, Bangalore - 560 009.

The owners represent that, the original Absolute Sale Deed dated 26.08.1999, Document No.2523/1999-2000, Book 1, Volume 2248, Pages 233 to 235, registered at the Office of the Sub-registrar, Rajajinagar, Bangalore in the name of the erstwhile owner Mrs.C.Jayalakshmi, in respect of the schedule property, has been lost/misplaced. The owners represent that based on the lost document they have not created any charge over the Schedule Property nor created any third party rights.

The owners propose to sell the Schedule Property to our clients and therefore any person or persons, are in possession of the lost document may deliver the same to the undersigned and if any person or persons have any claims over the Schedule Property or objections for the proposed sale transaction may lodge their claims/objections with attested copies of documents so as to reach the undersigned within **7 (seven) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which thereafter my clients shall proceed to complete the sale transaction and any claims/objections received beyond the stipulated period will not be entertained by our clients.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the **residential immovable property bearing Corporation No.1 [Old BDA Site No.2631], PID No.066-W0058-13 [Old PID No.9-80-1]**, situated at 11th Main Road, 'E' Block, Subramanyanagara, Rajajinagar 2nd Stage, Bangalore in Ward No.66 (Old Ward No.9) Subramanyanagar Sub-Division, presently within the revenue administrative jurisdiction of the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, [formed by the City Improvement Trust Board, now known as Bangalore Development Authority], together with the building thereon, including the right of common use of the space adjacent to the schedule property and the site measuring: East to West: 22½ Feet, North to South: 30 Feet, **Totally measuring: 675 Square Feet** and bounded as follows: **East by:** Site No.2632, **West by:** Site No.2631/A, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Site No.2630

N. JAIPRAKASH RAO, VEENA RAO, N. ASHOK KUMAR
JAYPEE ASSOCIATES, LAW FIRM
#38, "KRISHNA", 1st Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560003.
PH: 080-23560365, 23468742
Mobile: 9448809185
Email: veenajaypee@gmail.com
contact@jaypeeassociates.com
Date:30-06-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform General Public, my Client **Mr. M.S. SRINIVASAN,** S/o Late M N Sampangi Ramaiah, residing at No.69, 1st Floor, Sampangi Sampurna Apartments, S. kariyappa Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560004. Aadhaar No.3705 3031 3249.

My client M.S. SRINIVASAN and his brother S. RANGANATH, are the joint owner of BDA Property bearing No. 1111, 17th Cross, Banashankari 2nd Stage Extension, Bangalore - 560070, measuring East to West 18.50 + 15.30/2 Meters and North to South 15.40 + 15.00 /2 Meters, consisting of Basement, Ground Floor, First Floor, and Second Floor and bounded on : East by : Property No. 1110, West by : Road, North by : Property No. 1084, South by : Road,

My client hereby declare that property related Original Possession Certificate No PR 2.12/81-82, dated 3.4.1982 misplaced/lost within the limits of Basavanagudi Police Station, Bangalore. After thorough search he was not able to locate the same. In this behalf lodged online police complaint Vide Serial No. 1102949, Vide Lost Report No. 1102949/2024 dated 17-06-2024 and as such through this Public Notice he has confirmed that the above said original possession document has been lost.

If anybody finds/traces the said original documents, it is requested to contact and handover to the under signed immediately.

SHIVANNA, Advocate
No.28 12th Main Road, 4th Block East, Jayanagar, (Near Sub-Registrar Office), BANGALORE-560 011. Ph: (M) 9901507257
Property owner signature :
(M. S. SRINIVASAN)
Mobile No. 9844889999
Bangalore, Date : 28-06-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of general public that my client Sri.M.Bhuvaneswara Raju, S/o M.Krishnam Raju. aged about 57 years, residing at No.10A/58, 1st Cross, hebbal Binny Mill Road, Ganganagar Near Ganga Bakery, Bangalore-32, as he is the absolute owner of **Item No.1**:- Site bearing No.44 Municipal Assessment no.489/1642/44, Situated at Maruthinagar, 2nd Division, Yelahanka City Municipal limit, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West 30 ft and North to south 40 ft totally 1200 sq.ft, bounded on East by: property of Bhuvaneswara Raju, west by: property of Vijayalakshmamma, North by: property of Vijayalakshmamma & South by: property of Narayanappa, the same was purchased under registered sale deed dated: 8/6/2001, document No.1588/2001-02, pages 1 to 4, Volume 1322, Book I, at the office of the subregistrar Yalahanka, Bangalore from its previous owner Smt.Narasamma. **Item No.2**:- Site bearing No.43 Municipal Assessment no.313/498, Property no.1642/43, Situated at Maruthinagar 2nd Division, Yelahanka hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West 30 ft and North to south 40 ft totally 1200 sq.ft, bounded on East by: public property, West by: property no.44, North by: property of S.Bhuvaneshwara Raju & South by: property of Narayanappa, the same was purchased under registered sale deed dated: 17/11/2000, document No.4164/2000-01, pages 150 to 153, Volume 1196, Book I, at the office of the subregistrar Yalahanka, Bangalore from its previous owners M.Sitaram & Venkatalakshmamma in his favour.

That Original Sale deeds mentioned above have been lost by my client while shifting the house on 15/05/2024 to 08/06/2024 at about 12:57 pm, my client has also given a police complaint in this regard after enquiring about the same. My client has also obtained the certified copy of the said sale deeds.

Any person or persons having or claiming any manner of right, title, lien, interest etc. in respect of the above said Property within 7 days from the date of this publication, failing which the claims, if any of whatsoever nature of all such person/s shall be deemed to have been waived or abandoned & my client will proceed with certified copies of the said sale deeds, instead of the above lost original sale deeds; as if no valid claim or right is subsisting in favour of any one against the above said property.

Mr. Kiran .S, Advocate,
No.63, 4th Cross, Srirampuram, Bangalore - 560 021. Mob: 9141679995

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KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD

(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AEE-2/F-39/24-25/811-13 Dtd: 29.06.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal mode only)

KPTCL invites bids against the work for Removal of sludge from the oil of released good 12.5MVA NGEF make power transformer by hot oil circulation & filtration method, replacement of gasket at 66/11kV Bevoor Sub-station coming under TL&SS Division TK Halli on partial turnkey basis.

The Detailed Notification regarding the tenders can be got by logging on or after **02.07.2024 to https://www.kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper Link **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele)
Transmission (Main), Ramanagara Circle, KPTCL, Opp. R. R. Nagar, Metro Station, Pantharapalya, Mysuru Road, Bengaluru-560026.

UTKAL UNIVERSITY OF CULTURE

Sanskruti Vihar, Madanpur, Bhubaneswar-752 054
Website: uuc.ac.in
No. 265 /UUC Dt. 25.06.2024

CAD-342

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION-2024-25

Utkal University of Culture invites application on ONLINE MODE ONLY for admission in to the following innovative, inter-disciplinary and career oriented courses:

Courses	Duration	No. of seats
School of Culture Studies (M.A. Programme)		
Culture Studies	2 Years	32
School of Architecture and Archaeology (M.A. Programme)		
History and Archaeology	2 Years	32
School of Language and Literature (M.A. Programme)		
Linguistics	2 Years	32
Odia Langauge and Literature	2 Years	32
School of Visual Art (MVA Programme)		
Painting	2 Years	24
Print Making	2 Years	16
Applied Art & Design	2 Years	24
Sculpture	2 Years	16
Art History	2 Years	16
School of Performing Art (M.Mus. Programme)		
Odissi Vocal	2 Years	24
Hindustiani Vocal	2 Years	24
Odissi Dance	2 Years	24
Chhow Dance	2 Years	16
Tabla	2 Years	16
Mardal	2 Years	16
Violin	2 Years	16
Flute	2 Years	16
Sitar	2 Years	16
Drama(Acting, Design and Direction)	2 Years	16

Eligibility : Any person who has passed the qualifying degree with atleast 45% of marks in aggregate (40% for SC/ST students) of Utkal University of Culture, or any other examination conducted by other Universities/Institutions which is recognized as equivalent thereto by Utkal University of Culture fulfilling other eligibility criteria shall be eligible for admission to all the above mentioned courses. The qualifying degree and other details can be seen from the prospectus available for download from uuc.ac.in-Prospectus 2024-25.

Candiates who are appearing/appeared the final examination of qualifying degree and awaits thier results are also eligible to apply with the downloaded results, subject to production of final degree mark sheet before the selection process.

Application Procedure: Candidates are required to login to uuc.ac.in (Admissions-2024) to registered themselves for ON-LINE application on payment of Rs.300/- towards application fee payable on online mode.

Commencement of of On-line Application form for admission into P.G. and 01-07-2024 to 12-08-2024
Last date for submission of hard copy of application along with required documents 14-08-2024
Other details are available in the E-Prospectus.

By order of Vice-Chancellor
Sd/-HEAD, P.G.TEACHING DEPARTMENTS

OIPR- 03005/11/0002/2425

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

SRM e-Tender No. T-2429/MSETCL/CO/ Projects /Pre-Tender 3rd Call (RFx No. 6000001190)

MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.

"Establishment of 220/33 kV S/S at Deosane, Tal. Dindori, Dist. Nashik along with associated line under Nashik Zone, MSETCL, Maharashtra."

Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website. https://srmetender.mahatransco.in

The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 25.06.2024.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

HUBBALLI-DHARWAD BRTS COMPANY LTD.

(Government of Karnataka)
Phone No: 0836-2222007/2322700 e-mail:hdbrtsprojectcell@gmail.com
CIN: U60200KA2012SGC063887

Tender No: HDBRTS/ATCS/AMC/2024-25/11 Date:29.06.2024

E-Tender notification seeking consultants for maintaining ATCS traffic signals

Hubballi-Dharwad BRTS Company Ltd invites consultants for Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Adaptive Traffic Signals Installed in Hubballi Dharwad BRTS Corridor (2024-25). The eligibility criteria and other necessary details are available in the e- procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The interested consultants meeting eligibility criteria may participate in the e-bidding process from **29.06.2024** and the last date to submit the bid is **08.07.2024 till 4:00 Pm.**

Sd/-
General Manager(ITS & OPR)
Hubballi-Dharwad BRTS Company Ltd., Hubballi.

DIPR/Dharwad/111/2024-25/DeshpandePublicity

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public are hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its Owner **SRI.PRAMUKH SHEKAR** S/o Sri.S.Shekar, residing at No.1184, 3rd Cross, 26th Main, 1st Phase, J.P.Nagar, Bengaluru-560078.

The Owner represents that, he had misplaced/lost the original (I) Allotment Letter dated 03/09/1970 issued by CITB to Sri.C.R.Nagaraj; (ii) Possession Memo dated 25/05/1971 issued by CITB to Sri.C.R.Nagaraj; (iii) Sale Deed dated 06/08/1981 executed by BDA in favour of Sri.C.R.Nagaraj S/o Sri.C.Ramaiah, registered as document No.2253/1981-82, in Book-1, Volume-628 at Pages 8 to 10, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar, Bangalore City; (iv) Absolute Sale Deed dated 24/10/1981 executed by Sri.C.R.Nagaraj in favour of Sri.C.V.Sathyanarayana S/o late Sri.C.Venkataramaiah, registered as document No.3324/1981-82, in Book-1, Volume-640, at pages 44 to 47, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar, Bangalore City and other related documents of the Schedule Property and he had lodged a police complaint on 29/06/2024 vide Lost Report No.1122471/2024, with the Bengaluru City Police. Further the Owner represents that he has not deposited or otherwise handed over the said original sale deeds and documents to any person/s or Bank or institution and that the Owner has a freehold subsisting marketable title to the Schedule Property.

Apart from the said Owner, if any person has any manner of claim, right, title, interest or demand of any nature in or over the Schedule Property or any person/s having custody of the said original sale deed and documents, they are hereby called upon to file their objections along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying, with the undersigned within **7 (Seven) days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Municipal No.2265 (CITB/BDA Site No.2265)**, PID No.56-16-2265, in the layout formed by the CITB (now BDA), measuring East to West 40ft and North to South 65ft in all measuring 2600 Sq.ft, with a house building thereon, situated at **22nd Cross, 2nd Stage, Banashankari**, Bengaluru, within the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No.166-Karisandra and bounded as follows:

East by : Property bearing No.2264
West by : Property bearing No.2266
North by : Road
South by : Property bearing No.2228

Sd/- BAYYA REDDY. M
For **ISHA LAW CHAMBERS LLP**
Advocates & Solicitors
No.101, 2nd Floor, Sri Manjunatha Complex, BSK 2nd Stage, Opp : Banashankari BDA Complex, Bengaluru-560070

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लूर (जिला), आं.प्र. / SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

संक्षिप्त ई-निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

ई-निविदा सूचना सं. / e- Tender Notice No: CMG/C/CON 248709 तिथि/ Date. 01.07.2024

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, "एसएसएलवी प्रमोचन परिसर (एसएलसी), तिरुचेंदूर एवं सतंकुलम तालुक, थूथुकुडी जिले में एलसीसी / एमसीसी सुविधा, तकनी की सेवाभवन, बेस अग्निशमन केंद्र एवं 50 सीयूएम जीएलआर का निर्माण। (सिविल, पीएच विद्युत एवं एसी कार्य)" (₹2029 लाख) हेतु मद दर ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज **22.07.2024** को **14:30** बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** या **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** देखें।

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for **"Construction of LCC / MCC facility, Technical Service Building, Base firestation & 50 Cum GLR at SSLV Launch Complex (SLC), Tiruchendur & Sathankulam Taluk, Tuticorin District (Civil, PH, Electrical & AC works)" (₹2029 Lakhs)**; Tender documents can be downloaded up to **22.07.2024,14:30** hrs. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.

हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / **Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR**

Phoenix ARC Private Limited

Regd. Office:3rd Floor, Wallace Tower 139-140/B/1, Crossing of Sahar Road and Western Express Highway Vile Parle (East) Mumbai-400 057 **Tel: 022- 6849 2450, Fax : 022- 6741 2313**
CIN: U67190MH2007PTC168303 Email: info@phoenixarc.co.in, Website: www.phoenixarc.co.in.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION CUM SALE

E-Auction Sale Notice of 15 Days for Sale of Immovable Asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors in particular, that the under mentioned property mortgaged to Phoenix ARC Private Limited pursuant to assignment of debt by **Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited (Earlier Known as Aspire Home Finance Corporation limited-Assignor)** will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", by way of **"online e-auction"** for recovery of dues and further interest, charges and costs etc. as detailed below in **terms of the provisions of SARFAESI Act read with Rules 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)** through **website : www.phoenixarc.co.in/** as per the details given below

Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Loan Account	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price, EMD & Last Date of Submission of EMD	Date and time of E-Auction
LAN: LXBAN00617-180054021 Branch: Bengaluru Borrower: SHOBHA VENIKATAPPA Co-Borrower: CHOLURAYY CHOLURAYYA	24-06-2019 For Rs: 850436/- (Rupees Eight Lac Fifty Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Six Only)	Avaregere Village Bidadi Hobli,Anu Rag Hotel, Ramanagara, Bangalore, Karnataka - 562109	Reserve Price: Rs.800000/- (Eight Lakh Only) EMD: Rs. 80000/- (Eighty Thousand Only) Last date of EMD Deposit:18-07-2024	Date: 19-07-2024 11:00 Am to 05:00 Pm (with unlimited extensions of 5 minute each)

Terms and Conditions of E- Auction:

1. The Auction is conducted as per the further Terms and Conditions of the Bid document and as per the procedure set out therein. Bidders may visit to the Web Portal: **https://BestAuctionDeal.com** of our e-Auction Service Provider, M/s. GlobeTech Infosystems Private Limited for bidding information & support, the details of the secured asset put up for e-Auction and the Bid Form which will be submitted online. The interested buyers may go through the auction terms & conditions and process on the same portal and may contact to **Indrajeet L Kaunte 9980568058 & Boppuri Nagaraju 7304997399,** details available in the above mentioned Web Portal and may contact their **Centralised Help Desk: +91 98100 89933, +91 124 44 70 855, E-mail ID: Care@BestAuctionDeal.com**

Place : Karnataka
Date : 01-07-2024
*In case of discrepancy in translation, the English version shall prevail.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
Phoenix ARC Private Limited

Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
7th floor, East Wing, Swarna Jayanthi Commercial Complex, Ameerpet, Hyderabad-500038

E - Procurement Tender Notice

NIT.No.: HMDA/DEV/CE/ 3 /2024 Dt.29-06-2024

Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) is inviting tenders for the following works:

S.No	Name of work	Tender inviting Authority
1.	Selection of transaction advisor (TA) for Development of Elevated corridor from Paradise Junction (Gymkhana grounds) to Shameerpet ORR junction on SH-01 on PPP mode	Chief Engineer, HMDA
2.	Selection of transaction advisor (TA) for Development of Elevated corridor from Paradise Junction to Dairy Farm Road (NH-44) on PPP mode	Chief Engineer, HMDA
3.	Selection of transaction advisor (TA) cum area development plan (ADP) consultant for development of 6-lane iconic bridge across Mir.Alam Tank along with beautification of lakefront and development of other relevant infrastructure (including tourism) facilities for commuters & visitors on PPP mode	Chief Engineer, HMDA

For further details please visit website **https://tender.telangana.gov.in.**
R.O. No. : 136-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25 Date: 30-06-2024 Sd/- Chief Engineer, HMDA

WESTERN RAILWAY

MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NO. S/29/2024 DATE 27.06.2024

Sr. No.	Short Description of item	Quantity	T.O.D.
419	KIT FOR BRAKE CYLINDER	40 Set	22-Jul-24
420	OP BOARD FOR WSP	33 Nos	22-Jul-24
421	CENTRE BUFFER COUPLER	45 Nos	26-Jul-24
	REVERSE AUCTION		
30	SINGLE PHASE TO THREE PHASE 02 X 130 KVA CONVERTOR	55 Nos	30-Jul-24
31	MICROPROCESSOR BASED CONTROL AND FAULT DIAGNOSTIC SYSTEM	60 Set	22-Jul-24
	CORRIGENDUM		

Please read quantity as "43 Set" in Tender Notice No. S/27/2024 dated 24.06.2024 at SR. No. 392

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** and **www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in**

0291

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The National Co-Operative Bank Ltd.,

No.73/1, Gandhi Bazaar Main Road, Bangalore - 560 004.
Ph: 080-22421998, 26618092, 26618093 E-mail: admin.ao@ncbl.org.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas the undersigned being the authorised officer of **The National Co-operative Bank Ltd.,** under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Ordinance, 2002 (Ord. 3 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated **05.04.2024** calling upon the borrower **M/s Empee Plastics Prop: Mr.Venugopalan.K.A,** No.36/2A, Paduvanagere village, Maralawadi Hobli, T.Hosahalli post, Kanakapura taluq-562112, Ramanagar District and the **Co-obligants (1) Smt. Padmini Venugopalan** W/o Venugopalan.K.A and **Mr.Vipin.V** S/o Venugopalan.K.A **Both are residing at:** No.44/1, Padmakshi Nilayam, 3rd Main, Behind Govt Primary school, Sarakki, J.P.Nagar 1st phase, , Bengaluru-560078., to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.1,37,10,939.11/-** (Rupees One Crore Thirty Seven Lakhs Ten Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty Nine paisa Eleven Only) and interest and other charges thereon from **01.03.2024** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The amount due as on **29.02.2024** is **Rs.1,37,10,939.11/-** (Rupees One Crore Thirty Seven Lakhs Ten Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty Nine paisa Eleven Only) and interest and other charges thereon from **01.03.2024.**

The borrower and the co-obligants having failed to repay the entire amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, co-obligant and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the Ordinance read with rule 9 of the said rule on this **29th of june 2024.**

The borrower and the co-obligants in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **The National Co-operative Bank Limited** for an amount of **Rs.1,37,10,939.11/-** (Rupees One Crore Thirty Seven Lakhs Ten Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty Nine paisa Eleven Only) and interest and other charges thereon from **01.03.2024.**

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

ITEM NO.1: All that piece and parcel of House property bearing No.44/1, Municipal New No.26, PID No.57-241-26,3rd Main road, Sarakki notified area katha No.148/150/48/1, situated at Sarakki village, Uttarhalli hobli, Bengaluru south taluk, owned by Smt.Padmini Venugopal, measuring East to West 25 feet, North to south 30 feet along with built thereon and bounded by: East by: Road, West By: Anjanappa property, North by: Venugopal property, South by: Thangavelamma property .

ITEM NO.2: All that piece and parcel of House property bearing No.44/1, Municipal New No.27, PID No.57-241-27,3rd Main road, Sarakki village, Uttarhalli hobli, Bengaluru south taluk, owned by Sri.Venugopal.K.A, measuring East to West 25 feet, North to south 20 feet along with built thereon and bounded by: East by: 25 feet Road, West By: Property of Munishamappa, North by: Property of Pillamma, South by: Southern portion of same property.

Date: 29.06.2024
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
The National Co-Op Bank Ltd.,

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
OFFICE OF THE, Executive Engineer, KNNL, HBC Divn., Athani – 591304, Tq: Athani. Dist: Belgaum (Karnataka).

No./KNNL/HBC/PB/TND/2024-25/ 886 Date: 27.06.2024

TIME EXTENSION AND TENDER NOTIFICATION-Call-2 (Through kpp-portal only)

This office Short Term Tender Notification No/KNNL/HBC/PB/TBLIS/TND/SCP/2024-25/706 Dtd:18-06-2024 due to Technical issue Sl. No 1 to 6 works First Time Extension notification issued details are as below.

Percentage tenders are invited as per KW-4 in Two cover system for below mentioned Work on Turn Key Basis from eligible tenderers, for the works detailed below by the undersigned.

On behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer, KNNL, HBC Division Athani, invites percentage basis tender from interested, experienced and resourceful civil contractors from KPWD Class II and Above Contractors who fulfill the pre-qualification criteria for the bellow mentioned work.

The two cover bid submission procedure as per Rule 28 of KTPP Act shall be followed The bidders are requested to submit their bids in two cover system including EMD in e-cash. The first cover (Technical Bid) should contain the documents as mentioned in Para 4, The second cover shall contain the financial bid. The cover-I (Technical bid) will be opened first. Thereafter cover-II (financial bid) of only those bidders who have fulfill the conditions contained in Para.4 will be opened.

The blank tender documents can be obtained through website and can be submitted through electronic tender only.

The approximate estimated cost of work is 1) Rs. 489.61 Lakhs 2) Rs489.61 Lakhs 3) Rs. 489.61 Lakhs 4) Rs. 489.61 Lakhs 5) Rs. 489.61 Lakhs 6) Rs. 489.61 Lakhs

1:The contractor can request for e-tendering documents:From 01.07.2024 @ 10.30 AM to 08.07.2024. upto 4.00 PM,2:Last date & time for tender queries:06.07.2024 upto 4.00 PM,3:Pre bid meeting will be held in the office of the EE HBC Division Athani: 05.07.2024.2024 at 11.00 AM,4:Submission of completed e-tendering document:From 01.07.2024 @ 10.30 AM to 08.07.2024. upto 4.00 PM,5:Opening of Technical Bid at EE KNNL HBC Division Athani :10.07.2024 @ 11.00 AM,6:Opening of Financial Bid at EE KNNL HBC Division Athani :12.07.2024 @ 11.00 AM (Or after Approval of Technical Bid),7:Date for Producing original document @ EE KNNL HBC Division Athai:11.07.2024 @ 11.00 AM.

Any other information can be had from the undersigned during the office hours on telephone: 08289-251034 and H.P company helpline 080-22485867

Sd/-Praveen .B. Hunashikatti.
Executive Engineer, KNNL HBC Division, Athani

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-237/KSMCA/2024-25

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK

(A scheduled commercial bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non-performing Asset,** whereas **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand notice** calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount Due in Rs. / as on
1	1) **M/s. Urbocrew Service Pvt. Ltd.,** Represented by it's Directors **Mr. Afzal UR Rahaman** and **Mrs. Farha Sultana, 2) Mr. Afzal Ur Rahaman,** Director of **M/s. Urbocrew Service Pvt. Ltd., Also at: M/s. Urbocrew Service Pvt. Ltd., 3) Mrs. S Farha Sultana,** Director of **M/s. Urbocrew Service Pvt. Ltd., Also at: M/s Urbocrew Service Pvt. Ltd., 4) Mrs. Mehrunnisa, W/o. Mr. Afzal Ur Rahaman, 5) Mr. Ajmal Pasha**	Loan Account No. 47468640000148 Loan Amount: Rs.43,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of Immovable Property Bearing Residential Vacant Site No.18, Khatha No.30/18, Situated at Bellahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, Presently coming under the Jurisdiction of the Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike New Ward No.5, Measuring East to West: 40-00 feet and North to South: 38-00 feet, in total measuring: 1520 Sq.feet and **Bounded as follows: Bounded on the: East by:** 20 feet Road, **West by:** Site No.19, **North by:** Site No.17 & **South by:** Private Property.	Date of NPA: 01-06-2024 Demand Notice Date: 28-06-2024	**Rs.43,70,600.80** (Rupees Forty Three Lakh Seventy Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty Paisa Only) **due as on 25-06-2024**

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within **60 days** of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

Date: 01.07.2024, Place: Bangalore
Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 04/2024-25/ 868-71
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28-06-2024

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರಂತೆ ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್-ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-4 ರನ್ವಯ ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೆ.ಶೀ: 4059-80-051-0-32-386 (ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ ಕಟ್ಟಡ) ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ವಿರಾಜಪೇಟೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಇ-ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.1835.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02-08-2024 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ/ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡುಗಳನ್ನು ಇ- ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

JADEJA JOINS ROHIT, KOHLI IN T20I RETIREMENT

India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja announced his retirement from T20 Internationals on Sunday, joining his illustrious teammates Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma a day after winning the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup in Barbados. After the triumph, star batter Kohli and skipper Rohit announced their retirement from T20Is, calling it the perfect time to pass the baton to the younger crop of players to take Indian cricket forward | P13

British-era rules end, new criminal laws from today

New system gives priority to providing justice rather than meting out punishment for crimes

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THREE new criminal laws will come into effect across the country on Monday, overhauling India's criminal justice system and ending the Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Indian Evidence Act. These British-era laws will be replaced with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, respectively.

The new laws aim to make India's criminal justice system modern by incorporating provisions such as 'zero FIR', online registration of police complaints, summonses through electronic modes such as SMS, and mandatory videography of crime scenes for all heinous crimes.

Officials in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs said that preparations have been made to roll out the new laws with a focus on delivering justice to the common man rather than meting out punishment for offences. The officials said the new criminal laws are in sync with the existing social realities and crimes, and provide a mechanism to effectively deal with these, keeping in view the ideals enshrined in the Constitution of India.

Justice on fast track

Under new laws, verdicts in criminal cases must come within 45 days of completion of trial and charges be framed within 60 days of first hearing. Rape survivors' statement will be recorded by a female officer in the presence of a guardian, and medical reports have to come within seven days

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the new laws would give priority to providing justice as opposed to giving primacy to punishment as envisaged by the British-era laws.

Now, people can report incidents of crimes by electronic communication, without the need to physically visit a police station. This allows easier reporting, facilitating prompt action by the police. With the provisions of Zero FIR, a person can report a case at any police station, regardless of jurisdiction.

The IPC did not have provisions to deal with instances of false promise of marriage, gang rape of minors, mob lynching, chain snatching, etc. These have been addressed in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, officials said.

Modi resumes *Mann Ki Baat* address, thanks people for faith in Constitution

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

IN his first *Mann Ki Baat* radio address since the Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday thanked the people for reposing their faith in the Constitution and the democratic process. "Today, I thank the countrymen for reposing their unwavering faith in our Constitution and the democratic system of the country," Modi said.

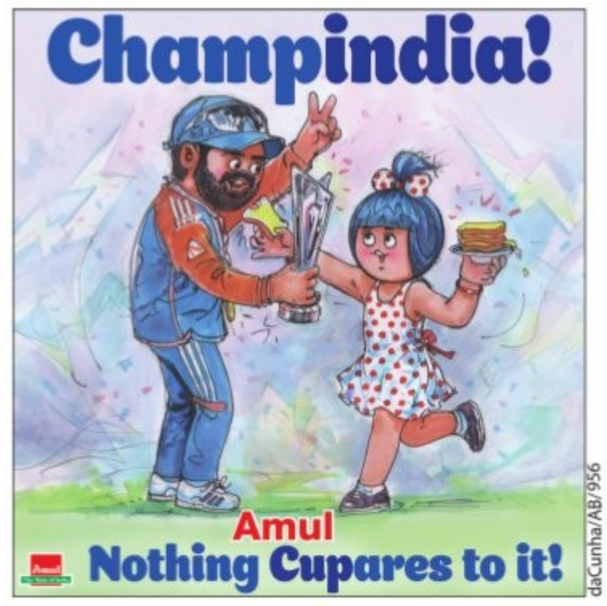
He called the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections the biggest in the world. "Such a big election has never taken place in any country in the world. More than 65 crore people voted in the election," he said. In the nearly 30-minute radio address, he also asked the people to use #Cheer4Bharat to support Indian athletes taking part in the Paris Olympics. "The whole country is hoping that our players perform well in the Olympics... winning medals in these games and also the hearts of the countrymen," he said. Modi also used the speech to highlight the growing reach of Indian culture. "Yoga Day has attained many great achievements all over the world," he said.

He also mentioned about the national radio in Kuwait starting a weekly broadcast in Hindi.

Modi's monthly radio broadcast was suspended in February in light of the elections. P9

PM talks about Sanskrit Sundays

The initiative of Samashthi Gubbi, who is from Bengaluru, to help people learn Sanskrit through different activities, was mentioned by PM Narendra Modi in his Mann Ki Baat on Sunday. TNSE had reported about Sanskrit Sundays in its June 9 edition. P4



daCunha/AB/956

Kenyan firm gave fake guarantee for PRR bid?

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has cancelled the tender for the third time for the Rs 27,000-crore Peripheral Ring Road project and will now have to call for a fourth round of tendering. The Kenya-based company, Astrum International Limited, which was the sole bidder and had won the tender, has allegedly produced a fake guarantee letter for Rs 300 crore, leading to the cancellation, sources said.

Astrum had submitted its bid specifying Equity Banks Kenya as its banker.

A finance expert explained, "In case the bank guarantee for the Earnest Money Deposit is produced from a foreign bank, it should be confirmed by an Indian bank. The deposit would be 1 percent of the project cost. It needs to be cross checked by the agency in a confidential manner before the tender is allotted. This is crucial because in case the contractor backs out or has any financial issue, the money can be recovered from the bank within our country." CONTINUED ON: P7

EXPRESS READ

Gen Dwivedi becomes Chief of the Army Staff

NEW DELHI: Gen Upendra Dwivedi, who has vast operational experience along the frontiers with China and Pakistan, on Sunday assumed charge as the 30th Chief of the Army Staff at a time India is facing myriad security challenges, including along the LAC. Gen Dwivedi succeeds Gen Manoj Pande, who superannuated after more than four decades of service. P9

Reasi attack: NIA raids multiple locations in J&K

NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday conducted searches at multiple locations in the border district of Rajouri in Jammu and Kashmir in connection with the June 9 terror attack in Reasi, which claimed nine lives, and 43 injured. P9

Kannada organisations to protest for job quota today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

KANNADA organisations, led by Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV), will hold a massive protest across the state on Monday, demanding 80 per cent job reservation in the private sector for Kannadigas.

They are also demanding job reservation for Kannadigas in Central government departments, whose offices are located in Karnataka. Many actors are also joining the protest.

In Bengaluru, the protest will be held at Freedom Park. Their other demand includes 100 per cent job reservation for low-category jobs in the private sector. They suggested that licences of companies not following these rules should be cancelled and the land and other benefits granted to them be withdrawn.

An exam must be conducted for those staying in Karnataka for 15 years and those passing it should be considered Kannadigas. They have demanded 100 per cent reservation for Kannadigas in state government jobs, in PSUs and in C and D category jobs in Central government departments in Karnataka. The Kannada Development Authority should frame the rules and monitor them, the organisations stated.

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BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday: 01.07.2024 • Year: Krodhi • Ayana: Uttharayana
Ritu: Greeshma • Masa: Jyeshta • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Dasami 10.47 am
Nakshatra: Ashwini 7.26 am • Moon in Vrishabha Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 21°C | MAX 28°C
FORECAST
Isolated tstorms. Overcast

Sunrise 05.57 am
Sunset 06.49 pm
Moonrise 01.30 am
Moonset 01.50 pm

Bag-free Saturdays to continue

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Department of State Educational Research and Training (DSERT) has instructed government schools across the state to continue the Sambhrama Shanivara (Celebration Saturday) for the academic year 2024-25. All schools will have to hold one Saturday of every month as a 'bag-free' day for students.

The programme aims to encourage creativity in students through activities like playing, singing or listening to stories apart from learning from textbooks. The idea is also to reduce the burden of carrying heavy bags to schools every day. "It has been ordered to celebrate one Saturday as a bag-free day every month with the aim of making children learn lessons cheerfully, without burdening them on the subject and giving them a pleasant learning experience," DSERT said in a notification.

To ensure that the initiative is implemented properly, DSERT also ordered schools to submit reports on the initiative and undertake progress meetings at the district, block and cluster levels. District and BEOs need to ensure that schools undertake the initiative without fail.

STATE WANTS 15% NRI QUOTA IN GOVT MED COLLEGES

Writes to Centre seeking 508 additional MBBS seats from '25-26

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Karnataka government wants to start NRI quota in government autonomous medical colleges in the state and has written to the Centre to sanction supernumerary (additional) MBBS seats under the Department of Medical Education from the academic year 2025-26.

In a letter to the National Medical Commission (NMC) chairman, Medical Education Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil requested sanction of a 15% NRI quota by creating 508 supernumerary MBBS seats for admissions in 22 government medical colleges.

Patil cited UGC guidelines for the admission and supernumerary seats of international students in UG and PG programmes and National Education Policy 2020 that emphasise the intake of international students in Indian higher educational institutions for global outreach.

He also mentioned Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Puducherry that provide 7-15% quota for NRI students in government medical colleges charging over 75,000 to 100,000 dollars for five-year courses whereas in Karnataka only private medical colleges are allowed to take NRI students who pay Rs 1 crore to 2.5 crore.

The minister noted that autonomous medical institutions in the state face a shortage of funds despite budgetary allocation, fees from students, central and state grants and other donations. "To make these institutions centres of excellence, additional funds are necessary for quality education, training, maintenance, purchase of medical equipment and drugs, handling patient load, improving infrastructure, lecturer strength and research. Creating NRI quota within the available annual intake of seats is not feasible," Patil explained.

He added that the department has proposed fixing an annual fee of Rs 25 lakh per student which would generate Rs 127 crore for the medical education department for the first year and Rs 571.5 crore from the fifth year onwards.

3,450 seats in 22 medical colleges

There are 22 government medical colleges under the Department of Medical Education having an intake capacity of 3,450 seats for the year 2023-24 out of which 85% (2,929 seats) are for Karnataka students and 521 (15%) for the All-India quota. Government veterinary, agriculture and horticulture universities in Karnataka have a 15% NRI quota.

The shed built by Noor Pasha on BDA land to carry out stone-crushing activities. BDA plans to file a land grab case against him | EXPRESS

Man claims BDA layout land, sets up stone-crushing unit

S LALITHA @Bengaluru:

AN individual who insists that a portion of land in Bangalore Development Authority's (BDA) Anjanapura Layout Extension belongs to his family, has taken possession of it and made life miserable for the 100-odd families living here. While a legal battle is going on between him and BDA, Noor Pasha has constructed a shed and is carrying out stone-crushing activity here with a few employees. Worse, he has blocked the sanitary pipeline of the residents which runs through the property, measuring more than an one acre, that he claims to be his own.

As of now, no one knows how to redress it. Residents have repeatedly complained to the BDA about the common area earmarked for a goshala site in Anjanapura second block being misused. BDA officials have also requested him to stop all activity, but he allegedly pays no heed.

A BDA engineer told *TNIE*, "Claiming the property as his own, Pasha had approached the High Court years ago. The BDA contested it as the documents could not show who is the owner. The court issued an injunction order for the property, so we cannot take any action." He could not recall the dates of the order.

Archana, an engineer and resident here, told TNIE, "We do not have any problem with what someone does to legally allotted land as it is BDA property. There was a small shed earlier which he recently made into a solid structure with sliding glass windows. He has erected a small compound wall around too. All this happened overnight on July 11." The land has been earmarked for a goshala and is common property.

Shwetharani, who resides at door number 1457, said, "We approached the BDA office multiple times over the issue. He took possession of the area in 2015. As per records, it is BDA property. However, he claims his family's property was sold by his cousins to someone else without his knowledge, who then handed it over to BDA for the layout and he was awarded the compensation."

She added that the sanitary pipeline that caters to at least 100 families in the layout and surroundings, has been blocked as it passes through this land. "BWSSB has created a temporary arrangement so that the waste can flow outside."

The BDA engineer said they met him last week and told him not to carry out any work. "Due to the court order, we are helpless and cannot demolish it. We have clearing the sanitary pipeline issue," he said. The issue is likely to be resolved at the next court hearing, he said, adding that BDA plans to file a land grab case against Pasha.

BBMP to clean up littered skywalks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

It's common to find skywalks stained with paan and gutka stains, littered with alcohol bottles and tetrapacks, cigarette butts, plastic bags and other garbage. The condition of some skywalks is so bad that people also use them as a urinal. All these issues are major deterrents that prevent citizens from using skywalks regularly. Bengaluru has more than 60 skywalks and there are proposals to build more across the city.

Now, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has come up with an initiative to clean up the city's skywalks. "Since it's difficult to cross Mysuru Road in front of Gopalan Mall, I use the skywalk. It needs to be kept clean and swept regularly. There is paan spittle along the corners and sometimes beer bottles and food covers, which attract stray dogs. Also, with thousands of vehicles passing below, dust accumulates on the skywalk and handrails, which need regular cleaning," said Malati, a resident of Kasturbanagar. She also complained that the lift is non-functional.

BBMP Chief Engineer BS Prahalad announced on his social media page on X that BBMP has taken up a 'Clean Skywalk' programme from June 27, which will go on till July 3. He called upon citizens to share images and locations of skywalks with BBMP, if they find there is a need to clean them up.

Citizens urged BBMP to ensure the clean-up drive is not restricted to just a week, but should be an ongoing project. Apart from the above problems, skywalks are marred by problems like high steps, defunct lifts, stray dogs, absence of lights, vendors encroaching and even using them as permanent homes.

MoS for Railways V Somanna and MoS for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Shobha Karandlaje interact with officials at Yesvantpur railway station on Sunday

Cantt, Yesvantpur stns getting upgraded, MoS reviews works

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

MINISTER of State for Railways and Jal Shakti V Somanna on Sunday reviewed the ongoing development works at two key railway stations – Bengaluru Cantonment and Yesvantpur – in Bengaluru Division.

The Bengaluru Cantonment station is being upgraded at a cost of Rs 486 crore and Yesvantpur station at Rs 367 crore.

Somanna said Cantonment station is a crucial junction connecting the suburban railway, mainline routes and metro lines. He underscored the station's pivotal role in catering to the substantial traffic volume it is expected to witness in the next two to three decades. The minister called upon officials for timely completion of the upgradation work at Yesvantpur railway station and ensure that the quality of construction was maintained, a release said. He called for more greenery to be incorporated on the station premises. Somanna was accompanied by Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Shobha Karandlaje, MP P C Mohan and MLA Rizwan Ahmed.

GRABBING EYEBALLS

PM mentions Sanskrit Sundays at Cubbon Park in his Mann Ki Baat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE initiative of Samashthi Gubbi, who is from Bengaluru, to help children, youngsters and elders pick up Sanskrit, the ancient language, through different activities, has caught the eye of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

During his radio address Mann Ki Baat on Sunday, Modi said, "Sanskrit has played a big role in the process of ancient Indian knowledge and science. Today demands that we give Sanskrit its due respect and also connect it with our daily lives."

Citing Samashthi's initiative of 'Sankskrit Weekends', he said that if everyone connects and promotes such programmes, citizens can learn a lot from the world's most ancient language.

The New Sunday Express in its June 9 edition had featured Sanskrit Sundays held at Cubbon Park every month. It was launched by Sthaayi.in three months ago and it has gained wide popularity over time. The motto of the 'free for all' programme is to help everyone learn the classical language through simple language and recreational activities.

Samashthi told *The New Indian Express* that she did not expect the Prime Minister to mention Sanskrit Weekends and that she was overwhelmed by all the support. "We try to teach Sanskrit through conversations, films, music and other activities. We have seen a lot of youngsters coming forward to become part of the initiatives. In fact, they have taken the acquired knowledge to their colleges and universities and formed small discussion groups. We started with eight people at Cubbon Park and now we are an 800-member-strong group," she explained.

Sanskrit Weekends also has a chapter in Mumbai and Pune. The team aims to have such groups in at least one city in every state. Sthaayi.in, founded in 2020-21, has also translated Hindi and English songs to Sanskrit, and produced food vlogs in Sanskrit. It organises 'Sanskrit Rides', where riders go from place to place to popularise Sanskrit. It had even organised a Sanskrit Marathon in the city. The next bike ride will be on July 6 from Bengaluru.

"Sanskrit should not be limited to classrooms or temples. We can use it in our daily lives. We have seen individuals from all sorts of communities joining the event on Sundays and we want to encourage it," Samashthi shared.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

01ST July : Venus aligns with mystical Neptune this week, a planetary picture which compounds the rather passionate set of alignments which are shaping current affairs. There will be too many who act first and think later, so it's up to people of goodwill to replace a mood of competition with the spirit of co-operation.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You're still in a stronger position than many people, even if it doesn't feel like it, and should therefore survive any mini-crises this week, including the occasional financial wobble. Your best qualities are your determination and refusal to give in to obstacles.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Other people often seem reluctant to tell you the whole story. Mind you, if you don't know what's going on you'll be less vulnerable to bouts of gossip and back-stabbing over the coming week. In fact, you should be in a fairly secure position, able to talk your way out of almost any corner, however tight!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
By all accounts you are about to become even more secretive than ever. Just why this should be so is not exactly clear, but it could be that other people are not yet able to understand your version of the facts. Perhaps you should try to explain yourself better!

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You may resolve to be still more sociable, and relish that growing confidence which enables you to provide entertain-ment and pleasure for other people. Keep an eye on the main chance, but realise that if you go your own way, you might lose valuable support. But, then, you'll also free yourself from people who have been holding you back!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
All eyes must be on worldly ambitions, including professional aspirations, but also community responsibilities. You'll gain great satisfaction out of seeing other people do well from your efforts. You might even be able to talk your way to the top with an emphasis on style and appearance, leaving the real substance and content until later.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Your stars are beginning to look quite extraordi-narily adventurous, and you may be about to break out of an emotional straight-jacket and try something new. Listen well to partners' advice, for even if they sound muddled at first, there's some good common sense in amongst the vague promises.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
There are signs that partners could be becoming increasingly irascible, but never fear. Such bouts of irritation will have their turn, but will pass, and whoever gives you a hard time over the coming few days could end up feeling rather shamefaced.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You can afford to relax a little. However, as long as planetary tensions are maintained, you could come under intense emotional pressure to reform your domestic arrangements. Someone you've known for rather a long time could come up with a stunning proposal at any moment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
The most lively planetary patterns occur in regions of your horos-cope slightly detached from your own priorities. You may therefore begin to imagine that the grass is greener on the other side, but by the same token you are also avoiding troubles that are afflicting other people.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Creative influences are astounding, which is obviously excellent for all who move in artistic fields. The pay-off for everyone born under your sign should be steadily rising romantic passions, so almost any-thing could happen in the emotional department!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Your family situation is now looking increasi-ngly changeable. Other people should be allowed the maximum freedom to manoeuvre, while you in your turn must have the courage of your convictions. You never know - you might reach an agreement that suits everyone.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Keep talking. And at all costs make sure that other people understand exactly what you are saying. Actually, this will be more difficult than you think, so you'll have to spell out every last tiny detail and punctuation mark! It will be well worth the effort.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

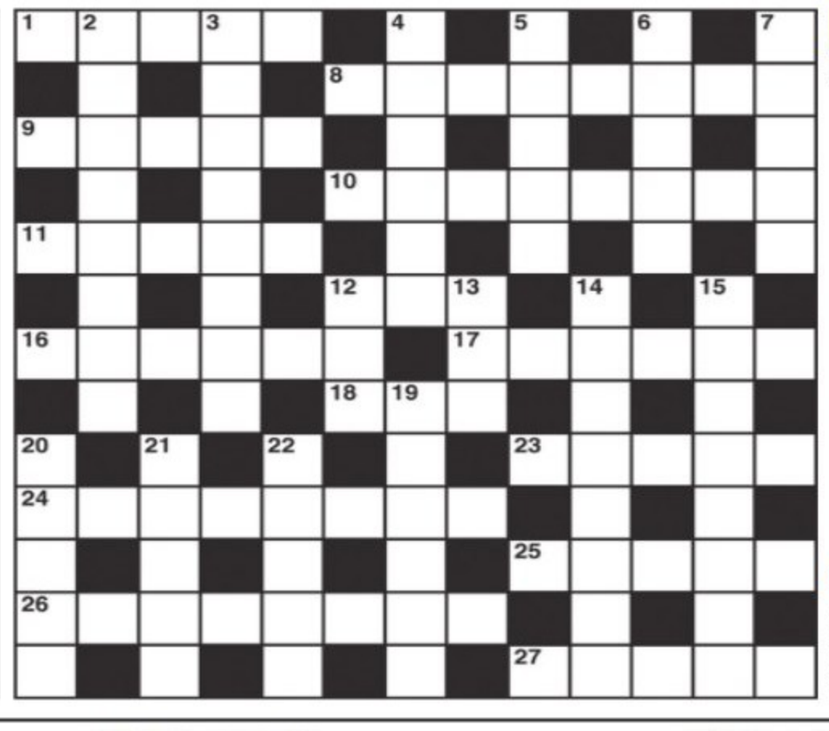
5	3				2			
							4	8
					4	2		3
4			2				8	
	9	3				6	2	
	7				9			1
2		9	8					
3	8							
			9				5	6

2	8	1	6	9	5	3	4	7
3	4	6	1	7	2	9	8	5
7	5	9	4	8	3	1	6	2
6	7	3	9	2	4	8	5	1
8	9	5	3	6	1	7	2	4
4	1	2	7	5	8	6	9	3
1	6	7	5	4	9	2	3	8
5	3	8	2	1	6	4	7	9
9	2	4	8	3	7	5	1	6

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Prepared as Venus de Milo once was (5)
8 You alone find it (8)
9 A foreigner on a bad line (5)
10 Sycophant's aspirate misplaced (8)
11 Remaining calm (5)
12 The sound of music (3)
16 It's black or white with grounds for disposal (6)
17 Boxes holding Eastern weapons (6)
18 Name written in italics (3)
23 Accident on court? (5)
24 Major report produced by a VIP (3,5)
25 Silly girl that is going out (5)
26 Turn in a toboggan? Done! (8)
27 Embrace for a deserving warrior (5)

DOWN
2 Strange oriental tale (8)
3 Order looks not right yet feels right (4,4)
4 Starchy food father is about to turn to (6)
5 Foreign cash drain is awkward (5)
6 Score 101 and total up (5)
7 Note reciprocation about a point of principle (5)
12 It may be sweet to eat or not (3)
13 Footnote I add to a letter from Greece (3)
14 End of the new tram line (8)
15 Gifts offered by about ten different papers? (8)
19 He is taken in by a girl - who fluttered them? (6)
20 Humble sailor on a rough sea (5)
21 On the other hand it's no loss (5)
22 After accident had no motorcycle (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Tarantella, 6 Sump, 10 Befit, 11 Grapevine, 12 Prodigal, 13 Press, 15 Gunners, 17 Takes in, 19 Everest, 21 Centaur, 22 Morse, 24 Artifice, 27 Negotiate, 28 Alibi, 29 Sell, 30 Playwright.

Down: 1 Toby, 2 Reference, 3 Noted, 4 Engages, 5 Leaflet, 7 Unite, 8 Pleasantry, 9 Bespoken, 14 Agreements, 16 Elements, 18 Searching, 20 Travail, 21 Cutlery, 23 Regal, 25 Flair, 26 Tint.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

MIGER

AEGWR

YESTSM

DTMSEO

I'm finally done! I'll drop them off in the morning. I need to get some sleep.
You get to bed. I'll clean up. Sleep well!
SHE WAS EXHAUSTED AFTER BAKING SO MANY SUGAR COOKIES AND WAS READY FOR ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: UDDER OPERA INSIST STINKY
Answer: The city was growing, and the number of skyscrapers being built was — ON THE RISE

A man in undergoing treatment at a Bengaluru hospital after two of his friends, who was under the influence of alcohol, slit his throat in Murugamalla village of Chinthamani taluk. The reason for the attack is not known. Kencharlahalli police are investigating

Bengalureans lose ₹65.19 cr in 5 months to FedEx scam

With 521 cases till May, it is a 71% jump compared to the whole of last year

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

THE FedEx scam, which started off by luring victims with a simple phone call, has changed its avatar multiple times, becoming increasingly difficult to crack nowadays. According to latest data, Bengalureans lost Rs 65.19 crore to this fraud alone in the first five months of this year, with 521 cases registered till May. This is a whopping 71% jump in just five months as compared to the whole of 2023 when people lost about Rs 30.81 crore.

Of the 521 cases, the highest were recorded in the Whitefield division where people lost over Rs 14.73 crore, compared to Rs 6.47 crore last year.

Cyber police officials told TNIE that fraudsters begin with a deceptive phone call, posing themselves as representatives of FedEx. Over time, they have introduced video calls, where fake officials appear, to enhance the credibility of the scam. They then direct their victims, over the call, to a 'police officer', who too is part of the scam.

A senior official said that the scam has evolved significantly with technical sophistication. It now includes a higher use of mule accounts to receive and reroute money, spoofed numbers which display fake caller IDs to appear legitimate, voice modulation to disguise the caller's voice, and use of payment gateways hosted on servers located outside the country for processing fraudulent transactions.

The official highlighted that this year, the trend escalated to a point where cyber fraudsters coerced a woman lawyer to strip in front of the camera, held her in digital arrest for 36 hours and duped her of Rs 15 lakh. In another case, they manipulated a 70-year-old journalist and digitally arrested him for eight dawys.

The complexity of the crime, which shields the mastermind, has increased, the official said and explained that previously, police could often crack a few layers and recover funds if the crime was reported promptly. But now, each crime involves over 100 mule accounts that are used to redirect funds. "The fraudsters ensure that no account holds over Rs 10,000 by blocking all accounts once funds are received and then rerouting the money through other bank accounts," the official said.

He emphasised that telecommunications companies need to ensure that customers cannot make online payments while engaged in phone calls. This precaution is crucial because fraudsters often distract and deceive victims during calls that begin innocuously with requests for OTPs and basic personal information.

AMOUNT LOST TILL MAY 2024 VS LAST YEAR
(only for divisions where trend has increased)

Division	2023	2024 (Till May 31)
Whitefield	₹6.47 crore	₹14.73 crore
East	₹4.19 crore	₹16.58 crore
South	₹3.35 crore	₹10.64 crore
South-East	₹6.82 crore	₹8.37 crore
North East	₹1.93 crore	₹7.59 crore
West	₹54.54 lakh	₹2.42 crore

PERSONAL INFO NOT REQUESTED: FEDEX

FedEx does not request personal information through unsolicited phone calls, mail, or email for goods being shipped or held, unless requested or initiated by customers. If any individual receives any suspicious phone calls or messages, they are advised to immediately contact the police or report to the cybercrime department, the company clarified.

ANOTHER LUCKY ESCAPE

A day after a KSRTC bus fell into a roadside ditch in Mandya taluk, injuring more than ten passengers, a similar mishap was reported in Maradihundi village in Nanjangud taluk on Sunday. Police said a KSRTC bus, with more than 25 passengers onboard, which was proceeding from Biliguli village in Nanjangud taluk towards Mysuru via S Hosakote, fell into a ditch. The passengers suffered minor injuries and were shifted to KR Hospital in Mysuru. According to the passengers, the driver was speeding and lost control of the vehicle at a curve, leading to the accident. Police are investigating | EXPRESS

Robotic system unveiled for knee surgery

BENGALURU: The first indigenous robotic system for joint replacement surgery was unveiled at the International Knee and Orthopaedic Centre (IKOC) on Sunday.

Called MISSO robot, the advanced system, designed and manufactured by Meril, a medical device company, in Vapi, Gujarat, aids in performing surgeries with the highest accuracy and faster patient recovery.

The company claims that at Rs 2 crore, MISSO is priced approximately 66% lower than the available robotic knee replacement systems in the Indian market.

According to company officials, the reduced acquisition cost of MISSO robot for hospitals could lead to a decrease in knee replacement surgery costs by about 40-60%. ENS

Health dept to conduct death audit for dengue

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

In response to the dengue outbreak and to control panic, the health department will conduct a death audit to determine the exact cause of the deaths. The decision follows two recent deaths in Bengaluru, suspected to be due to dengue.

According to the latest health department data, a total of 93,012 suspected dengue cases have been recorded statewide. Of these, 5,878 were reported within BBMP limits, 310 in Bengaluru Urban, and 467 in Bengaluru Rural, since January this year.

On June 28, two individuals – a 24-year-old man and an 80-year-old woman – died due to suspected dengue fever. However, the death audit report is yet to confirm the same. The health department is conducting regular inspection of breeding sites, both indoors and outdoors, with health staff and ASHA workers regularly carrying out 'source reduction' activity in both urban and rural settings. The department has ensured the process is regularly cross-checked by the District Vector Borne Diseases (VBD) Control Officer and Medical Officer of Primary Health Centres (PHCs).

Conman flees with crores, held in Kolkata

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chitradurga

A conman who had hoodwinked people of crores of rupees and escaped to Vietnam was arrested by the Chitradurga CEN police from Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport recently.

CEN police inspector N Venkatesh, under the guidance of the Superintendent of Police Dharmender Kumar Meena, were keeping track of the accused Kode Ramanaiah of Andhra Pradesh, who had assured people of doubling their money within 60 days and fled with Rs 4.79 crore to Vietnam.

Kode Ramanaiah first contacted railway employee Ramesh and assured him of doubling his money within 60 days and got money funded into his firm, Crowd Club International Private Limited. Ramesh deposited Rs 1.04 lakh in the company.

Ramesh, who couldn't trace Kode Ramanaiah, lodged a complaint against Kode Ramanaiah at the CEN Police station Chitradurga which got a lookout notice issued for Kode Ramanaiah. It was also revealed that many people had deposited in the company, but by then Ramanaiah had gone missing. The police found that 106 people had deposited Rs 4.79 crore in total.

After six months, it was found that Kode Ramanaiah had landed at Kolkata airport. The Kolkata police arrested him and informed the Chitradurga CEN police who arrested him and brought him to Chitradurga.

Initial investigation revealed that Ramanaiah had swindled money not only in Karnataka but also in several state.

The Chitradurga police have requested the CID to investigate the incident.

EXPRESS READ

Ex-Customs official gets 4-yr jail for disproportionate assets

Bengaluru : The Principal City Civil and Sessions Judge and Special Judge for CBI cases sentenced a former superintendent of Customs to four years imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 26.25 lakh in a disproportionate assets case. It was alleged that while working at the Air Cargo Complex, Air Customs Commissionerate, Bengaluru, accused V Vishweshwara Bhat had amassed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. The Central Bureau of Investigation had registered a case against him on March 31, 2016, and filed the charge-sheet on September 27, 2017. The investigation revealed that during his tenure as a public servant from January 1, 2010 to March 19, 2016, he had amassed assets worth Rs 28,38,233, which was 61.94% disproportionate to his known sources of income and which he could not satisfactorily account for. ENS

Incident should not have happened: Shivanna on Darshan case

Bengaluru: Kannada actor Shivarajkumar said he is upset over the recent developments involving actor Darshan, who was arrested in connection with a murder case. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the inauguration of a new building of Kannada Film Producers' Association here on Sunday, the senior actor said the incident should not have happened. "While I feel sad for the families of both Darshan and the victim, I can't say much about the incident. The police are investigating and let's hope justice is served," he added. ENS

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Canara Bank Celebrates 119th Foundation Day
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...To a Global Outreach
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No.SDUAHER/KLR/ADMN/2805/2024-25 **FACULTY REQUIRED** Date:28.06.2024

	POSITION
Anatomy	Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor
Physiology	Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor
Biochemistry	Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor / Professor
Pathology	Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor
Pharmacology	Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor
Microbiology	Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor
Community Medicine	Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor
Forensic Medicine	Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor/ Professor
General Medicine	Senior Resident / Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor
Pediatrics	Senior Resident / Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor/Professor
General Surgery	Senior Resident / Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor/Professor
Ophthalmology	Senior Resident / Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor
Obstetrics & Gynecology	Senior Resident / Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor/Professor
Anesthesiology	Senior Resident / Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor
Emergency Medicine	Senior Resident / Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor
Neuro surgery	Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor/Professor
Urology	Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor/Professor
Surgical Oncology	Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor / Professor
Transfusion Medicine	Senior Resident / Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor
Nephrology	Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor / Professor
Dermatology	Senior Resident / Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor/Professor
Radiotherapy	Senior Resident / Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor
Neurology	Asst. Professor/Assoc. Professor/Professor

Qualification & Experience as per NMC TEQ 2022 Guidelines

POSITION	STARTING PAY SCALE
Professor	Rs. 1.80 Lakhs/Month
Associate Professor	Rs. 1.60 Lakhs/Month
Assistant Professor	Clinical - Rs. 1.20 Lakhs/Month Non - Clinical - Rs. 1.10 Lakhs/Month
Senior Resident	Clinical - Rs. 1. Lakh/Month Non - Clinical - Rs. 90 K /Month

* Special allowance will be given for Super specialty programs.
* Additional increments will be given based on the experience.

Interested candidates may please send your resume to registrar@sduaher.ac.in or office@sduaher.ac.in
Last Date of Receipt of the Applications: On or before 20th July 2024

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

POSITION	QUALIFICATION	EXPERIENCE
Marketing Manager	MBA / MSW in Marketing	5 years Experience in health care marketing and business development
Human Resource - Head & Executive	MBA in HR / Finance MSW in HR	15 years experience as a HR head. 2 years of experience as HR Generalist.
Master of Social work	MSW	5 years Experience in Hospital /Private Health care/ Corporate hospital.
Student Counsellor	MA Psychology	2 years Experience as student counsellor
Physical Director	M.P.Ed	3-5 years Experience as a Physical Education Director.
Nursing Staff	B.sc / GNM	Freshers / experienced
Patient relation officer	Masters in Health MBA/MHA with Hospital administration	2-3 years experience in Hospital / Private Health care / Corporate hospital

Dr. D V L N Prasad, Registrar, SDUAHER

BJP MLC AH Vishwanath levelled serious allegations against Dr Yathindra Siddaramaiah, MLC and son of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, accusing him and MUDA officials of their involvement in irregularities amounting to approximately Rs 5,000 crore

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

HOMELESS & ALONE

City streets are home to thousands of homeless people, brought to that state by economic, social and health factors such as poverty, mental and physical illness, substance addiction, neglect and others

BALA CHAUHAN

We often see a man, bereft of clothes and dignity, walking on the roads, often mumbling something aimlessly to himself and those around him. Often, a stray canine, as if in company to his encores, barks. Our social mannerisms by default make us look the other way, away from his nakedness and our sensibilities. The man with no clothes and no apparent hesitation at being naked is the true self of an unwanted, mentally and physically ill homeless person. Do we have a count of how many such homeless people live on and off the roads like pariahs, and die without a claim?

Take the case of late Muthuswamy, who always had his way with his customers while selling lemons door to door. His smile was infectious, and even if you didn't understand his colloquial Tamil, you would know he was wishing you well as he handed over lemons from his gunny sack. Muthu had a large heart and lived on the street with his wife, till the pandemic claimed his life. When asked why he didn't have a house or lived with his children, he raised his hands in a manner of thanksgiving and said they were happy without a 'home'. It turned out their children had thrown them out of the house, and Muthu and his wife were too poor to afford their own dwelling. The couple earned their living selling lemons, and Muthu didn't accept charity. He died an honourable man. Another familiar protagonist in the saga of homeless persons is a bearded man living inside a dilapidated and abandoned bus stop. A plastic bottle for water and an old bag containing all his belongings.

Homelessness is a tragic manifestation of varied underlying economic, social and health factors such as poverty, mental and physical illness, substance addiction, lack of affordable housing, family breakdown and neglect etc. According to the United Nations, "homelessness not only indicates a state failure to guarantee access to safe, affordable and adequate housing for all, it violates as well a number of other human rights", more importantly, the right to life, which "entails in itself more than mere survival, as it encompasses the core notion that everyone has the right to enjoy her or his life in dignity". "Homelessness is stigmatized and often addressed with criminalization, violence and aggressive policies that violate, rather than safeguard, the rights of the persons involved," the world body adds.

A person can suffer homelessness for a temporary period or lifetime. A completely homeless person is one who lives without shelter. There are others who experience partial, temporary or sub-standard homelessness. "Among the homeless population, around 30 per cent have a diagnosable mental illness," said Dr K Janaki Raman, associate professor, Psychiatric Social Work (PSW), National Institute of Mental Health & Social Sciences (Nimhans).

"That poverty leads to homelessness is well understood. Medical expenses are a common cause for driving people and families into poverty," said Dr Sanjeev Jain, Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychiatry, Nimhans. He added that "a very large proportion of the homeless are those who are, or have been, mentally ill. Being homeless, they also lose identity documents which makes it almost impossible for them to access healthcare. Being homeless and mentally ill poses a severe challenge for healthcare, as there are only a few thousand beds in government mental health hospitals for the million or more people who need these services. NGO services do offer a helping hand, but to receive by charity, what should be a right (to healthcare) raises uncomfortable questions," added Jain.

3K homeless people in Bengaluru

According to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), there are 30 to 40 members at any given time in their 49 shelter homes. The civic body, under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), has set up shelter homes under 'Ashraya Yojane' and provides basic boarding and lodging amenities. There are night shelters to provide care and comfort to people who come to the city for work, or have left home due to domestic issues. They are brought into the shelter by officials after following procedures like police verification, health checkup etc. "If some people don't go back home, their families are informed and they are discharged once the family arrives," said an official.

"Shelter homes are meant for temporary stay. Orphans and extremely sick people are not taken in and are referred to other departments," a senior official from the BBMP welfare department said, adding that the government spends between Rs 50,000 and Rs 90,000 monthly on each shelter home for its maintenance.

In a survey done by voluntary organisations 'Project Smile', 'Aaladmara', 'Thanal' and HBS Hospital under the project 'Namma Kutumba' (programme for homeless) in Bengaluru, "around 3,300 homeless people were found on the streets of Bengaluru, with 80 per cent men and 20 per cent women. Among these, around 40 per cent of homeless people seemed to be suffering from various mental illnesses," said Programme Director, Namma Kutumba, Syed Tousif Masood.

Launched in June 2022, Namma Kutumba has a steps-based intervention programme that takes into account basic needs of hygiene and healthcare, besides documentation and reintegration of the homeless into society. The programme has dedicated teams and social workers. It has four ambulances, 12-15 medical camps, including psychiatric wards for men in HBS Hospital, and for women in Grandma Homes. They also have emergency care, recovery centres and medical care across Bengaluru.

"Homelessness is a huge issue and we are operating at a very basic level," said a Namma Kutumba spokesperson. He added that 95 per cent of homeless shelters take in "clean and hygienic persons because they are grossly understaffed and poorly resourced".

However, those using BBMP shelter homes vouch for the living conditions and say they have regular water and electricity supply, besides three meals. Most homeless people work and save their earnings with zero expenditure, and move out within a few months, making room for others.

BBMP's Namma Mane shelter Akshaya Trust in Jayanagar is an all-male shelter with a capacity of 22 people. Currently, 19 people are staying there. Akshaya Trust for Women, with a capacity for 34, has 25 inmates. Surabhi Trust, meant for 40 people, currently houses 29.

Marietta, an inmate of Akshaya Trust and popularly called Maria, considers the shelter "home away from home". She has been living at the shelter for the past two months after her husband passed away due to a blood clot in the brain. She told TNIE that her brother-in-law took advantage of the situation and got their property transferred to his name when her husband was in coma. Maria has a daughter who supports her daily needs but she prefers to stay at the shelter, and considers it "safer".

Abandoned for varied reasons

This is the reality of homeless people, abandoned by their loved ones for reasons such as poverty, illness and addiction, among others. Many are dementia patients who get lost after they leave home, they forget their names and are called by different names in the shelters.

In Mysuru, a recent survey by Mysuru City Corporation identified 378 homeless people as against 202 in a previous survey in December 2022, with an equal number of men and women. The age group of the homeless is between 20 years and 65 years. Most of the elderly homeless persons were abandoned by their children. MCC has taken up initiatives to construct shelters for the homeless, said MCC commissioner Ashaad-ur-Rahman Shariff.

BIG PICTURE

In Udupi, 2,000 applications were received by Udupi City Municipal Council from those who wanted government assistance to own a house. The applicants are from a weak economic background and are residing in makeshift structures without basic amenities. With the help of the Karnataka Slum Development Board, 600 houses were readied by Udupi CMC in Saralebettu area in Udupi, and 240 of them have already occupied those houses. In the next phase, 220 houses will be given to applicants who have paid their contribution of Rs 90,000. KSDB has also approved another 400 houses at Saralebettu for the homeless, however, the funds are yet to be earmarked by the state government for this phase of the project.

Sources informed *The New Indian Express* that though several people in rural areas (gram panchayat limits) have also sought housing facilities through gram panchayats, there is no collated data available at the ZP office to know how many applications are pending under various schemes, seeking housing facilities in rural parts of the district.

Home loans by government

In Kalaburagi, as per the survey conducted in 2018, there were 1,60,353 houseless families in the district. As the government started fixing a target for providing home loans with subsidy under various housing schemes in 2022, and from 2022 to 2024, loans with subsidy were given to 12,319 beneficiaries and they have constructed houses, said Chief Executive Officer, Kalaburagi Zilla Panchayat, Bhamvarsingh Meena. He said that as on date, 1,48,034 families are houseless and they are being given loans as per the decision taken in Grama Sabhas. The loan ranges from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.20 lakh, which is given in four phases to the beneficiaries, after inspection of the construction of the houses.

Rajashekhar Tenginmath from Ratkarl village of Kalagi taluk said after his house collapsed, he applied to the Grama Panchayat (GP) around five years ago for a housing loan. His pleas have not been heard so far. "We continue to live in a dilapidated house," Rajashekhar said.

The Destitute Centre of Vijayapura presently has 172 inmates, of whom around 33 are from different states and suffering from mental illness.

"While the majority are from Vijayapura, some are from other states. Some are suffering from mental illness and don't have details of their address," said Basu Natikar, superintendent of the destitute centre. He added that around 15 people have been staying at the centre for over three years, the maximum time allowed

(With inputs from Mohd Yacoob and Archisha Jetly from Bengaluru, Prakash Samaga from Udupi, BK Lakshmikantha from Mysuru, Ramakrishna Badseshi from Kalaburagi, Firoz Rozindar from Vijayapura)

> Homelessness is categorised as Primary Homelessness – people without any form of accommodation; Secondary Homelessness – people who frequently move from one temporary shelter to another, and Tertiary Homelessness – people who live in boarding houses on medium to long-term basis. Mental illness and addiction are big factors behind homelessness. These issues, by themselves, usually don't cause homelessness, but a combination of several of these issues eventually leads to homelessness. Nirashrithara Parihara Kendra or Relief & Rehabilitation Centre, Bengaluru, was taken as a model for the study on psycho-social intervention for homeless persons with mental illness. It is run by the Government of Karnataka under the Prevention of Beggary Act, 1975. There are 20 such centres in Karnataka -- in Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Hubballi, Dharwad, Mysuru, Chitradurga, Davangere, Kalaburagi, Raichur, Ballari, Shivamogga, Belagavi, Kolar, Tumakaru, Vijayapura.
>
> – Dr K Janaki Raman, associate professor, Psychiatric Social Work, Nimhans

Cong high command leaders too divided between Siddu, DKS?

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

LIKE others in the party, Congress high command leaders too seem to be divided between Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and DCM DK Shivakumar, also KPCC president, over changing the chief minister and KPCC chief, and creating more deputy chief minister posts.

Siddaramaiah, who was in New Delhi, held a confidential meeting with Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Saturday evening, while Shivakumar met AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge in the morning. Though what was discussed in the two meetings was not revealed, highly-placed sources said changes in the top posts being part of the talks cannot be ruled out.

"Five to six leaders, including Dr HC Mahadevappa, KJ George and I, met Rahul along with Siddaramaiah. After we all came out, Siddaramaiah held personal talks with Rahul for ten minutes. I don't know what they spoke about," Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara told reporters in Bengaluru on Sunday.

He opined that Shivakumar may not find time to carry out KPCC chief's responsibilities as he holds two important portfolios of water resources and Bengaluru development. He said the high command will consider changing the KPCC president by appointing a leader from communities that have stood strong with the party.

Parameshwara's comments are along the same lines as Cooperation Minister KN Rajanna's. Grasping this, Shivakumar spoke to Parameshwara over phone after returning from New Delhi and conveyed Kharge's message to him, a source said. Kharge is said to be convinced that Shivakumar should continue as KPCC chief till BBMP and ZP/TP polls are held, the source added.

Kharge was also convinced that the Kuruba community, to which Siddaramaiah belongs, is not backing Congress anymore like it did during the Assembly polls. The AICC president was also told that with Vokkaligas and Lingayats supporting the BJP-JDS alliance unitedly, it would not be a wise move now to remove Shivakumar, also a Vokkaliga, as KPCC chief, a source said.

But Rahul's Man Friday and AICC general secretary KC Venugopal may go with Siddaramaiah camp's theory that the AHINDA communities -- Muslims and SC/ST/OBCs -- that voted for Congress in the Lok Sabha elections should be given representation by appointing their leaders as deputy chief ministers and KPCC president. PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi, a Scheduled Tribe leader and a Siddaramaiah loyalist, has stated openly that he is ready to take up the KPCC position by sacrificing his minister's post. But Kharge may go for a Veerashaiva-Lingayat leader from North Karnataka, a Congress leader said. In that case, ministers Eshwar Khandre, MB Patil and HK Patil could be considered. But will they sacrifice their ministerial posts is the big question. While former chief minister and Lingayat strongman BS Yediyurappa's son BY Vijayendra is BJP state president, Congress may pick a leader from a subsect, like Panchamasali-Lingayat, for the post, another leader said.

Hariprasad deserves to be in top post: Seer

ENS @Raichur/Yadgir

IN a probable event of the chief minister or KPCC president being changed in the state, Ediga community leader BK Hariprasad should be given a chance as well, said Arya Ediga community seer **Pranavananda Swamiji** on Sunday.

Pranavananda Swamiji, who was in Yadgir, expressed displeasure over political leaders allegedly insulting holy men for expressing their views. Reacting sharply to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's statement that Swamijis should not interfere in politics, Pranavananda Swamiji said that seers express opinions in favour of their communities. "If politicians want to insult Swamijis, they too should not enter mutts," he said. When Chandrashekhara Swamiji spoke about the post of the CM, many leaders welcomed him. If Swamijis of other communities speak in the same manner, and Shivakumar says that the former should not interfere in politics, it is gimmicky, the seer stated.

Chandrashekhara Swamiji had demanded that Shivakumar be made CM. "What is wrong if other Swamijis too demand DCM posts for members of their community," Pranavananda Swamiji asked, adding Hariprasad should be given a chance.

Repeal new criminal laws: SC lawyer to CM

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

IN a move that could send shockwaves through India's political and legal circles, Supreme Court advocate KV Dhananjay has urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to repeal the new criminal law reforms within the state's borders through legislative measures.

He told TNIE, "This unexpected development could thrust Karnataka into the national spotlight, setting the stage for a constitutional showdown between the state and central governments."

In a letter to Siddaramaiah, Opposition leader R Ashoka and Law Minister HK Patil, Dhananjay urged the state government to take immediate action to legislatively repeal the Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita (BNS) and its companion legislation, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023. These new laws will come into effect on Monday, replacing the long-standing Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860 , Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. "A repeal of the new laws by the Karnataka legislature would restore the earlier laws within Karnataka's borders, but would require the assent of the President of India," Dhanajnay said.

He stated that BNS is little more than a repackaged version of IPC, with an estimated 75-80% of its language directly lifted from its predecessor.

Of particular concern, Dhananjay states in his letter, is the certainty of chaos and confusion in the criminal justice system. He warns that law enforcement agencies and the judiciary, already overburdened, will struggle to adapt to the new framework. This could simply end up creating more opportunities for criminals to exploit, he states.

The letter also suggests that Hindi titles of the new laws could alienate India's diverse states and union territories. This move, Dhananjay argues, risks being interpreted as an imposition of a narrow, nationalistic vision on India's legal system.

The state government is yet to respond officially to his request.

All efforts will be made to revive VISL, says Kumaraswamy

Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy visits the VISL plant in Bhadravathi on Sunday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Shivamogga

UNION Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy on Sunday said all efforts will be made to save Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Ltd (VISL) in Bhadravathi, and also, the interests of employees will be protected.

Kumaraswamy visited the steel plant along with officials of Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL). He told reporters later, "With the foresight of the Maharaja of Mysore, Sir M Visvesvaraya set up this plant. I looked at its current condition. MP B Y Raghavendra and former Bhadravathi MLA, the late Appaji Gowda, fought to save this steel plant from closure. Everyone wants to save it. I received all necessary information from the parties concerned to revive the plant," he said.

The minister said he does not want to reveal certain information publicly as the Parliament session is going on. "When I took charge of the ministry, Rajya Sabha member from the state and Congress leader Jairam Ramesh raised questions about five steel plants. That is the reason I came here to gather information. In the days to come, we will take decisions to revive the plant," he said.

He pointed out that the plant was merged with SAIL in 1998. "In line with the 'Make in India' and 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' initiatives of the PM, and to meet the target of producing 300 million tonnes of steel by 2030, we have started several programmes," he added.

MP Raghavendra said, "I once again promise that I will not rest until the factory is preserved, its historic glory restored, a better livelihood provided to thousands of dependent families, and the workers' grievances are addressed."

MLAs Sharada Pooryanaik and BK Sangamesh, and SAIL Chairman Amarendu Prakash were present.

No one from Cong has contacted us, says Bommai

GADAG: Debunking speculation about BJP's alleged role in the purported discord within the ruling Congress in the state, Haveri-Gadag MP Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday stated that no one from the Congress has contacted the saffron party, however, it is clear that there is some internal tension within the Grand Old Party. He said the Congress members have openly expressed their opinions about the posts of chief minister and deputy chief minister. Meanwhile, Bommai declined to comment on the recent statements made by certain seers on the matter. He reiterated that the decisions on who should continue as the chief minister or whether to appoint three or four deputy CMs are left to the Congress. "Let's wait and see how many DCMs they appoint. I will not comment on their internal matters," he added. **ENS**

The CBI has registered a case against two former SPs and one inspector of the Customs Department at the Hyderabad International Airport, over corruption allegations. The accused obtained the foreign currencies from passengers, and the CBI found incriminating documents.against them

NATURE UNFORGIVING AS MAN TRIES HARD TO TAME IT

Eroded beach perfect habitat Olive Ridley turtle breeding; Ghats vulnerable to landslides; Rising water level a risk in monsoon, tourists moved out of harm's way

Devbagh Beach destroyed due to sea erosion | SURAJ PUJAR

Sea erosion at Devbagh to aid mangrove fauna

SUBHASH CHANDRA N S @ Devbagh

THE recent sea erosion at Devbagh, which took a heavy toll on the huge casuarina plantation, has come as a blessing in disguise to the region. Experts say the area will be enriched with a mangrove fauna and turtle breeding.

Described as a loss for tourism, but gain for conservation, the sea erosion at Devbagh beach has left the state-owned Jungle Lodges and Resorts (JLR) in Uttara Kannada in the lurch. JLR has claimed that it has incurred a loss of several lakh rupees as some of their cottages have been damaged. But marine biology experts are looking at the positive side.

According to them, this eroded beach has turned into a perfect habitat for olive ridley turtle breeding and they believe that a large number of turtles will come to nest here. "The shores where the river meets the sea are highly dynamic. They erode in monsoon and accredit post-monsoon. Such beaches are fresh without microbial load. Turtles prefer such sandy nesting sites. These places hold the key for turtle breeding," Shivakumar Haragi, Professor, Department of Marine Biology, told TNIE. He said that sea erosion is a natural phenomenon which occurs every year.

In a place like Devbagh where the river meets the sea, the current varies. It washes away the sand deposit and almost everything in this place, except the mangrove vegetation. "New sand deposit is formed here which aids the breeding of olive ridley turtles," he said.

DK MP Capt Brijesh Chowta visits landslide-prone area on Sunday

Landslides in DK, 42 shifted to relief camps

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

AMID heavy rain in Dakshina Kannada district, as many as 42 people from landslide-prone areas have been shifted to relief centres. A relief centre has been opened in Subramanya in Kadaba taluk while another relief centre was opened at Panjimogaru near Mangaluru which are identified as vulnerable to landslides.

Officials of the District Disaster Management Authority said that 19 people, including 8 women, have been shifted from Subramanya area where there are high chances of landslides due to heavy rain and they have been relocated to a temple hall.

Meanwhile, five families of 23 members, at Panjimogaru ward no 12 in the Mangaluru City Corporation limits have been shifted to a government school. "We provide them food and other facilities at the relief centre until the situation turns normal in their areas. Meanwhile, the Department of Animal Husbandry makes separate relief centres for pets or domestic animals if any," an official said.

Meanwhile, Dakshina Kannada MP Capt Brijesh Chowta visited the sea erosion-prone areas in Ullal and Someshwar on Sunday. He also visited the spot where four members of a family lost their lives after a wall collapsed at Madani Nagar in Kuthar near Ullal. Chowta during his visit directed the officials to make arrangements for the payment of compensation at the earliest to the kin of the deceased.

Tourists cross river Cauvery to reach Dubare Camp

Hanging bridge proposed across Cauvery in Dubare

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Madikeri

DUBARE Elephant Camp is among the top rated tourist destinations in Kodagu and the place is visited by thousands every year. However, this iconic elephant camp is forced to shut its doors to tourists during monsoons, due to the increase in water level of River Cauvery.

A proposal has now been forwarded to the state to enable construction of a hanging bridge at the site. The Dubare camp is home to over 15 tamed elephants that attract tourists around the year. The camp is located on the banks of River Cauvery and tourists have to cross the river to reach the destination.

Thousands of tourists line up to cross the river on foot to reach the camp. While crossing the river is feasible during summers, the rising water level during the monsoon makes it impossible to reach the camp on foot. Boat facilities arranged by the department start to tread the river during the rainy season, only when the water level of River Cauvery is not at a dangerous level. However, the camp will be closed for tourists when the water crosses high level and several visitors return disappointed.

While several proposals had been initiated to establish a hanging bridge, the same failed to receive approval. However, Madikeri MLA Dr Mantar Gowda instructed Kushalnagar Forest officials to ready a proposal to construct a bridge. "Proposal of Rs 6 crore has been submitted to the state and various processes in this regard are going on," confirmed Dr Mantar Gowda.

People enjoy Kumbhavade waterfalls near Amboli, Karnataka border

Kumbhavade falls regains its glory

TUSHAR A MAJUKAR @ Belagavi

WITH plentiful rainfall since the onset of monsoon, Kumbhavade waterfalls alias Baba waterfalls, nestled in the serene Western Ghats near Amboli on the border of Karnataka, is again attracting hundreds of tourists.

About 87 km away from Belagavi, Baba waterfalls is located in a private property, which is owned by late Babasaheb Kupekar, former Maharashtra Assembly Speaker and senior NCP leader. This waterfalls witnessed huge crowds of visitors on the weekends providing booming business to the vendors selling snacks and tea in and around that place.

It may be recalled that following landslides, Kupekar had restricted the public from entering his property. It was done for the safety of the public. In spite of restrictions, people, trespass into private property to have a look of the majestic waterfalls. Following the same, Kupekar family decided to give a facelift to the property by laying proper roads and taking safety measures. Speaking to *TNIE*, Madhukar Gawade, one of the staff members, informed that landslides are common in the area during monsoon.

After entry was restricted by the authorities, the number of visitors at Baba waterfalls has increased enormously. Unlike more popular tourist spots, this waterfalls retains its raw and unspoiled nature. The surrounding landscape is rich in diverse flora and fauna, offering ample opportunities for nature enthusiasts and photographers to capture the beauty of the Ghats.

120 Keralites linked to cyber crimes sent back from S Asia

SHAN AS @ T'Puram

AS many as 120 Keralites suspected to be associated with cyber financial crimes were repatriated from Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia in the last 18 months.

These people were repatriated after prima facia it was revealed that they were working with several firms, including the ones ran by Chinese nationals, that were engaged in fleecing money from Indians.

Thesy mostly worked as call centre operatives and were assigned to collect details of the potential victims from the social media and entice them into investing their hard-earned money in fraudulent schemes.

Highly-placed sources said many of the men, who were working in the three countries, expressed their interest in returning home owing to the bad experiences they had faced from their employers.

Among them, many had lost their travel documents, which were in the possession of their employers, and they were repatriated with the assistance of Indian embassies in those countries. In some other cases, the families of those who were working for the cyber crime syndicates, were pressurized by the police, which prompted them to turn in.

"There were people, who badly wanted to return. They had suffered at the hands of their employers, who rather behaved like their captor. Among them, there were people who had lost their travel documents, mostly confiscated by their employers. They were repatriated after the embassies provided all the assistance required," the sources said.Some of those returned had their salaries lying pending, which made them regret their decision to join the syndicate and return home.

Quite interestingly, some of the men who returned were released by their employers for their incompetence. "There is a case of a youth from Poovar, who was taken to one of the three countries by his friend, who was already working there. The youth hails from a fisherman family and he was assigned the job of handling social media platforms to identify targets. However, he was not adept in using the platforms and the firm fired him as he was proving to be a liability for them," the sources added.

A MATTER OF PRIDE

Members of the LGBTQIA+ community participate in large numbers, in the Chennai Rainbow Pride Parade, that marked the culmination of the pride month on Sunday | MARTIN LOUIS

Bidder did not meet criteria: BDA chief

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Karnataka Finance Department made this mandatory decades ago after a contractor walked out of a project after bidding for it with fake bank guarantees.

A BDA source told *TNIE*, "Astrum, which has a branch in Kolkata, has failed the financial round. Initially, they told us ICICI Bank was the confirmation bank vetting it. ICICI told us that they had not received any counter guarantee and could not confirm it. The group then approached other banks but it did not work out."

Finally, they produced an e-mail allegedly sent by Punjab & Sind Bank as the confirmation bank. "A BDA team visited the Chennai branch of the bank to cross check the credentials of the communication. The bank officials told us clearly that they had never sent such mail. The ID from which it was sent was not their official mail ID for communication. We believe it to be a fake guarantee document produced for the sake of the contract. We have decided not to go ahead with the contract and will go in for a fresh round of tenders within a month," the source said.

Without elaborating, BDA Commissioner N Jayaram told *TNIE* late last week, "The bidder did not meet our eligibility criteria. So, it stands cancelled and we will be retendering the PRR project."

An official said the BDA is exploring the possibility of splitting the next PRR tender into many packages. The latest tender for the PRR project, which was proposed in 2007, was called for on January 30 this year with February 29 as the deadline. It was later extended to mid-March. The 73-km, eight-lane Public Private Partnership project has a 50-year lease period.

Chanakya University holds international roundtable

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

AS part of Subhas Chandra Bose Chair Professorship on International Relations, the School of Law Governance and Public Policy, Chanakya University, organised an 'International roundtable on India's engagement with the world' on Saturday.

The roundtable featured 13 eminent scholars with expertise in international relations to discuss and develop India-centric frameworks, narratives and terminologies for India's engagement with the world.

The aim of the chair is to explore the unique perspectives that India brings to global interactions as well as promote interdisciplinary research, enhance expertise in international relations and foster collaborative partnerships.

The chair is guided by an advisory council with former ambassador P S Raghavan serving as chairperson and former ambassadors N Parthasarathi, Vijay Gokhale, Pankaj Saran, D B Venkatesh Varma, Prof Harsh Pant and Prof Manjari Chatterjee Miller as members, and Dr Chetan Singai, Dean, School of Law, Governance and Public Policy, Chanakya University, as member-secretary.

EXPRESS READ

Krupanidhi Group holds a drug awareness programme

Bengaluru: The Krupanidhi Group of Institutions in association with the Bengaluru Whitefield Division police organised a public awareness programme on trafficking and ensuring a drug-free world on Saturday. Students of the group conducted a walkathon and showcased their artistic abilities while delivering messages about the perils of drug usage and the impact of trafficking. The event showcased artworks that portrayed the optimism for rehabilitation, a future free of drugs and the harsh reality of drug addiction. A cricket match between police officers and college staff as well as rangoli and sketching competitions were held. Police Commissioner B Dayananda, DCP (Whitefield Division) Shivakumar, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Marathahalli sub-division) Priyadarshini Iswar Sanikop, Krupanidhi Group of Institutions Director Sam Paul and others took part in the event.

Experts assess Polavaram project

Vijayawada: A team of international experts visited the Polavaram project site on Sunday as part of their four-day visit to assess the problems with the diaphragm wall, guide bund, and cofferdams. After studying the structures in depth, they will submit a report to the Jal Shakti Ministry. Four experts -- David P Paul and Gain Franco de Sikko are from the US, and Richard Danielle and Sean Hinch Berger from Canada -- arrived in New Delhi on Saturday. According to the Central Water Commission (CWC), all four are experts in international dam safety, structural engineering, structural solutions, civil engineering, hydraulics, and geo-technology engineering. Following a briefing from the officials of Jal Shakti Ministry, the expert team arrived at Rajamahendravaram on Saturday night, and commenced their inspection of the Polavarm project on Sunday. The team will study the project design and ongoing works, and they will hold review meetings to assess the situation.

NIA ARRESTS TWO IN CONNECTION WITH HuT TERROR CASE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

THE National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested two persons from Thanjavur on Sunday in connection with a Hizb-ut-Tahrir (HuT) case after a series of searches at 10 locations across five districts in Tamil Nadu, including Tiruchy, Erode, Chennai and Thanjavur.

The searches also led to the seizure of digital devices and several incriminating documents such as books and printouts containing ideologies of Hizb-ut-Tahrir, Khilafa, Islamic State, and the proposed Khilafa government and its funding structures, stated an official release by the agency. The arrested men have been identified as Abdul Rehman alias Abdul Rahman (26) and Mujibur Rehman alias Mujibur Rahman Altham Sahib (45), both from Saliyamangalam village in Thanjavur.

They are members of Hizb-ut-Tahrir, an international pan-Islamist and fundamentalist organisation that is working to re-establish Islamic caliphate and enforce the constitution written by Hizb-ut-Tahrir's founder Taqi al-Din al-Nabhani.

Abdul Rahman was caught from his uncle's house near Subramaniyapuram in Tiruchy from where the NIA team took him to his native village in Thanjavur for interrogation. Apart from the suspects' houses, searches were held at two residences in Ammal Nagar and Manangorai village in Thanjavur.

As per the release, investigations revealed that the arrested men were involved in conducting secret classes to radicalise youth in extremist ideologies and promoting democracy and the Indian Constitution as anti-Islamic. The trainees were taught that India is now Darul Kufr (land of non-believers) and it is their duty to transform it into Darul Islam by establishing Islamic state in the country with the help of violent jihad.

In Erode, raids were conducted in two places, which went on for about six hours. Mobile phones and pen drives were seized from the residences of Sarbuddin (40), a photographer in Ashok Nagar, and Mohammad Ishaq (45), a two wheeler mechanic in Periyar Nagar. They had allegedly campaigned in support of the banned HuT outfit. While a mobile phone and two pen drives were seized from Ishaq, a mobile phone and two Islamic books were recovered from Sarbuddin's house, according to a source. Ishaq and Sarbuddin were summoned for questioning at the NIA office in Chennai on July 2 and 4, respectively.

EDITORIAL

"The hallmark of a great captain is the ability to win the toss, at the right time" — Richie Benaud

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

INDIAN CRICKET TEAM'S REWARD FOR PROCESS AND PERSISTENCE

THE ICC title drought is finally over. For once, India found themselves on the right side of a nail-biting, pendulum-swinging end to a big match. When they woke up on Sunday morning, they did so with a huge weight off their shoulders. With 30 needed from as many balls for South Africa to win a first ever senior men's World Cup on Saturday, it seemed as if another opportunity had slipped away. But Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh and Hardik Pandya, between them, conjured magic—with a helping hand from Suryakumar Yadav—to give the country their fourth World Cup across two white-ball formats. For a long time, this is a team that has put faith in processes, which showed at the Kensington Oval. They have been the most consistent white-ball team at ICC events. In the last two events, they have won 17 of the 19 games (one loss against Australia in the 50-over final and one no-result against Canada in this edition). This triumph is a result of their consistency as much as anything else. It's also been a long time coming. In the process, it has also vindicated the faith reposed by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in two of the country's biggest ever superstars, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.

At various points over the last two years or so, their places in the side—especially in this format—have been questioned. But Jay Shah, secretary, doubled down. In fact, he announced that Sharma would captain the World Cup side a good few months before the tournament. Sharma had just overseen back-to-back losses in two ICC finals in 2023 and he had just lost his power at Mumbai Indians, his IPL franchise. But having put their trust behind him, they saw it through. If Sharma is the architect of this win, credit must also go to Rahul Dravid. The coach, in his final assignment, reserved best for the last. When he came into the job, he had to multi-task; identify youngsters capable of walking into the team, marshall the workload of the bowlers, ensure a transition of sorts, and get India an ICC title. That he has managed the last bit without compromising on the first three tasks shouldn't be lost. With Kohli and Sharma walking away from the format, it allows the BCCI an opportunity to take stock of the situation going forward. With another 50-over ICC event round the corner -- in Pakistan in less than eight months time -- there lies an opportunity for a famous double.

HIGHER TARIFFS MUST NOT DERAIL DIGITAL INDIA

THREE major telecom companies—Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea—have decided to increase call and data tariff by up to 10-25% across prepaid and postpaid plans. New rates will come into force from the first week of July. This marks the first significant tariff increase by telecom companies since November 2021. The telecom firms have justified the hike by stating that such a move was essential for a financially sustainable business model. They have also argued that without the hike, it would be difficult for them to invest in network upgrades and 5G rollout. However, the move may come as a jolt to masses, who are increasingly becoming dependent on cheaper internet for everything from payments to entertainment.

India boasts of having one of the world's cheapest data costs—1GB data costs less than $0.2—with only a couple of other countries providing such cheap internet services. But a 10-25% surge in tariffs at one go might change this scenario. Nonetheless, it is a big jump for a data-hungry country that consumes 24 GB data per person per month. The household consumption survey report says that the share of consumer services, which includes telephone charges, internet etc in household consumption expenditure, has gone up from less than 4% in 2011-12 to over 5% in 2022-23, showing a surge in data usage.

India has taken big strides in becoming a powerhouse in the digital economy, and this has been possible because of cheaper data usage (even if there is a flip side to this). The latest TRAI report shows India has around 930 million broadband users, and 95% of those use these three telecom companies for data services. The power of internet users can be gauged from the way UPI payment system has become a household name. The success of UPI has prompted the Indian government to expand its footprint in more digital public goods. Whether it is financial services, online shopping or even delivery of medical and educational services, India is setting new benchmarks for the world. All this has been possible due to cheaper data usage. The digital India dream could receive a setback if telecom services get costlier. Therefore, the government must recognise internet and data services as essential goods and ensure they remain affordable. For that, it has to also ensure that the telecom sector remains competitive with three-four major players. Amidst all this, revival of state-owned BSNL makes immense sense.

QUICK TAKE

MAKE CITY ADMINS ACCOUNTABLE

OUR cities' inability to cope with climate change is a cause for worry. Muddy water sloshing through and closing down airports, hospitals and entire neighbourhoods is not unusual in some of our biggest cities. If recent images from Delhi and Ahmedabad after record rainfalls alarmed us, we must also think of Mumbai that floods almost every year even with usual precipitation. We need to hold our governments responsible for administrative lapses—in long-term urban planning and regular maintenance—that not only cause massive losses every year, but often result in deaths. Our cities need to be more climate-resilient, as almost half the country lives in them.

President Wickremesinghe has secured a bailout from the IMF and managed to extend the life of loan repayments. But the nation's economic woes are far from over

DEBT RESTRUCTURE NOT FINAL ANSWER TO LANKA'S PROBLEMS

DILRUKSHI HANDUNETTI

Award-winning journalist and lawyer, founder and director of the Colombo-based Center for Investigative Reporting

COLOMBO is heaving a sigh of relief two years after the island's economy crashed, compelling the government to declare bankruptcy and immediately suspend repayments on multilateral and bilateral loans. It was an economic horror story—and still is—despite bilateral creditors finally reaching an agreement on June 26 to restructure debt. Sri Lanka's total debt stood at $92.43 billion in 2022, half of it to foreign creditors.

So, debt restructuring offers respite as the island economy struggles for recovery, and may pave the way for creditor nations to resume projects or invest anew. But the economic and socio-political woes are far from over.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Sri Lanka's loan repayments stand postponed until 2028 and there is provision to settle some bilateral loans by 2043. This immediately reduces the crushing weight of multilateral debt, but all these extensions mean Sri Lanka continues to remain in the clutches of those it owes money to. Then there are the commercial loans that are up for renegotiation. In such a backdrop, there could be truly little to celebrate.

In 2022, economic mismanagement coupled with the pandemic's devastating impact, particularly on the island's tourism sector, resulted in Colombo's economic distress. But this mismanagement includes decades of external borrowing as well as extensive commercial borrowings from China that enraged people, particularly due to the uncompromising stance adopted by Beijing after the economic collapse and the irresponsible vanity projects that added to the chaos. There were no plans or necessary wisdom to address the debt crisis. Amid it all, angry Sri Lankans mounted public protests, eventually driving President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to resign the presidency and flee. Unlike the Rajapaksas, this is known turf for President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who has worked towards securing a bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as a first step, and then seeking to lock a restructuring deal with multilateral and bilateral creditors including the difficult-to-placate China.

But memories are short and rapidly fading. In 2022, the island ran out of forex, there was general chaos and Sri Lanka's queues for food, cooking gas and fuel grabbed international headlines. The situation was made worse by a shortage of essential medical supplies and the island's health sector, one of Asia's best, stood paralysed.

After the IMF approved the Extended Fund Facility (EFF programme) for Sri Lanka in March 2022, the Official Creditors Committee (OCC) was launched to convene discussions with Sri Lanka's bilateral creditors to finalise a plan for restructuring its debt, in which India played a significant role. The government has finally cobbled an agreement for $5.8 billion with its bilateral lenders, including China. In Beijing, Colombo found a Shylock demanding its pound of flesh.

MANDAR PARDIKAR

But now, President Wickremesinghe has managed to extend the life of loan repayments. Opinion is divided on this economic relief formula. There is the simplistic notion that the IMF bailout and the debt restructuring will not work in favour of Sri Lanka as dents will be perpetuated and not repaid. While economists argue the pros and cons, from the people's point of view, life needs to resume—but no longer at the cost of enslaving future generations to a massive debt burden. There is apprehension about having to seek an 18th round of assistance from the IMF and not being able to envision economic freedom through a homespun model that puts the island's economic growth first, without being enslaved by creditor nations, including China and India.

An outcome of the debt crisis is people's awakening to the entrapment of the global creditor consortia model. Acknowledging that Sri Lanka deserves to catch its breath as an immediate necessity to gallop towards economic recovery and growth, would require a divorce from the current model that perpetuates debt. To snap out of the current morass, it can no longer be business as usual for Sri Lanka. The island economy needs a rethink and reboot.

With the OCC finally signing a MoU on debt restructuring, its supporters hail it as a milestone in resetting the economy as it reflects creditor nations' recognition of progress made to stabilise. But ask an average citizen, it will be a tale of woe about food and medicine being unaffordable. The white-collar middle class complain about the excessive weight of multiple taxes, a contributor to the mass exodus of professionals, particularly medical professionals. Permanent migration and migration for employment is taking place at a time when the island needs its skilled human resources the most. In short, being tax-stabbed cannot be Sri Lanka's response to economic management. Recovery needs much more than restructuring; it needs economic remodelling that factors in Sri Lanka's strengths, exports, increased investments in high-end tourism as well as the healthcare and wellness industry. A formula that can help prevent a repeat of 2022 and doesn't cause Sri Lanka to have an 18th round with the IMF.

Post restructuring agreement, Sri Lanka needs to acknowledge the failure of the old IMF formula. People are not willing to forgive its rulers for several decades of economic mishandling anymore. The 2022 economic collapse has served as an eye opener to happy islanders who are not only sceptical but unlikely to forgive the rulers for any more mistakes.

Sri Lanka's story is a cautionary tale, with lessons for others on the brink of collapse like Pakistan or the Maldives. For its own good, Colombo must act with caution and wisdom, remembering that it is not possible to overcome the Chinese debt trap with an Indian one. There is much that is taking place in Sri Lanka in terms of investments that are hidden from the public eye. The future should necessarily be about an economic model that helps Sri Lanka break economic shackles, policies and programmes that can prevent brain drain, increasing exports and expanding what's already serving the island.

When elections are announced, the economic model for recovery will be an important arbiter. Public trust in the ruling class and their economic programmes are at an all-time low. It will be critically important to make people stakeholders in the plans being made. Their resentment and lack of trust will guide the electoral outcomes, if not.

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THE MYSTICAL QUALITY OF RAINS ACROSS CULTURES

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

WHEN the heat-ravaged plains of North India welcomed a few pre-monsoon showers, I couldn't help but be reminded of an interesting belief in world culture—that holy men can wring rain out of burning skies by their penance, even by just their presence, by setting foot in rain-starved places.

To begin at home, it's an old Indian belief that there exist holy men who can make rain come and make it stop, by appealing to the gods. In the *Ramayana*, the sage Rishyasringa is said to have made rain fall on parched land just by his presence. As recently as the 20th century, it seems former Tamil Nadu CM M G Ramachandran besought a luminous sage revered across the south to save the state from drought, and rains did come. The sage was the 68th Shankaracharya of Kanchipuram, Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati (1894-1994). He was away doing padayatra in the Deccan outside TN, which underwent a severe drought. The story has it he was finally besought in despair to return to the state. The sage knew his duty and made his way back. The legend goes that as he crossed into TN, dark clouds began to gather and it rained. Such stories may defy 'rationalism' and not be reported in our media, but how do we explain what happened? Meteorological coincidence?

It is a belief that when the Vedas, revered as 'God's Breath', are chanted with sincerity, the good vibrations benefit everybody. It is expressed thus: "*Samastha loka sukhino bhavantu*" or "May all people everywhere live well and be happy".

The ancient Jews had a similar belief, as found in the story of scholar Honi, the Circle-Drawer of Galilee, who lived in the 1st century BCE.

It says in the *Mishnah*, a Jewish work of priestly literature, that Honi "drew a circle, stood within it and said before God, 'O Lord of the world, your children have turned their faces to me, for I am like a son of the house before you. I swear by your great name that I will not stir from here until you have pity on your children'.

Rain began falling in a half-hearted smatter. Honi said, 'Not for such rain have I prayed, but for rain that will fill the cisterns, pits, and caverns.' It began to rain with tremendous force. Honi said, 'Not for such rain have I prayed, but for rain of goodwill, blessing, and graciousness.'

Then it rained in moderation, until Israelites had to go up from Jerusalem to the Temple Mount because of the rain. They told Honi, 'Just as you prayed for the rain to come, so pray that it may go away.'"

Honi, like Jesus after him, spoke to God as a son to his father. He was later ordered by powerful people to pray for the destruction of political rivals. But he did not want God to hurt Jews or their enemies and was stoned to death for his non-cooperation. Legend says the most appalling storm broke out, destroying the wheat crop of the country. They say Honi "returned" in spirit 70 years later. Greek commentators who otherwise scoffed at miracle men as 'deceivers', notably held up Onias (Greek for Honi) as 'righteous and genuine'.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

> Sri Krishna's beguiling consort, Satyabhama, is considered the ultimate 'rain queen'. Why do we associate her with romancing rains? Mukku Thimmanna, court-poet to Krishnadevaraya, says, "Satyabhama is like a beautiful peacock displaying its iridescent train to the rain cloud that is Krishna

Such seers give us a standard of behaviour, a reminder that good thoughts and deeds can enable a land's well-being.

As the burning North cautiously begins to take cheer with the first showers, there's a poetic promise in the weather report—'rain-laden winds'. Here, one cannot but salute the ultimate 'rain queen', Sri Krishna's fiery, beguiling consort, Satyabhama, whom we see represented in Kuchipudi dance in the suite called Bhama Kalapam. No less than Patanjali, author of the *Mahabhashya* grammar book, reportedly gushed in the 2nd century, "Satyabhama is a *bhama* (*vama*/woman) par excellence. Whenever anyone mentions the word '*bhama*', we always think of Satyabhama by the law of pre-eminent association." Why do we associate her with romancing rains? Mukku Thimmanna, court-poet to Krishnadevaraya, emperor of Vijayanagar in the 15th-16th century, had the answer: "Satyabhama is like a beautiful peacock displaying its iridescent train (*kalapam*) to the rain cloud that is Krishna (*Ghanshyam*)."

However, in my humble opinion, nothing that came my way matches the beauty and pain in Valmiki's eulogy to the rains in the *Kishkinda Kanda*, *Sarga* 28, of the *Srimad Ramayanam*.

Rama and Lakshmana are hunkered down in a cave during the *chaturmas*, the mandatory monsoon retreat when it is impossible to travel. The cave is halfway up Mount Malayavata, in Kishkinda. Rama has been through a lot already. Now the two brothers are sitting out the rains, after which Sugriva can send his scouts out to look for Sita.

It's a time of interminable inactivity, compared to which our traffic jams seem paltry. Not only is Rama impatient to move on but he's also homesick. "Bharata would have begun his monsoon retreat at Nandigram outside Ayodhya on the full-moon day of (the month of) Asadh," he says wistfully. "And the Sarayu must be full and flowing fast." But he gamely renews his spirit by appreciating the beauty of nature, birdsongs, flowering trees, magnificent cloud formations and silvery swathes of rain.

Lacking that pristine abundance of nature in cities, how may we connect to the emotional and spiritual potential of rains like Rama did? One thing he says is that rains are when people learn to sing the *Sama Veda*. Since our classical music comes from the *Saman*, all we have to do is tune into the rain ragas, the Malhar family. It's all ours, those uplifting spiritual showers of *svaras*.

(Views are personal)
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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Prevention better

Ref: *A mundane wishlist for Modi 3.0* (Jun 30). Wellness centres are the need of the hour. A balanced diet, exercise, sunlight, socialisation, sound sleep and a calm mind can ensure good health. Prevention is better than cure.
G Nataraja Perumal, Belagavi

Rahul's transformation

Ref: *The rise, fall and rise of RaGa* (Jun 30). It was a timely reminder to a much-transformed Rahul Gandhi. His transformation from an immature MP who tore the copy of a Bill presented by a PM of his own party in the Lok Sabha to a crusader fighting Modi head on was phenomenal. He is a natural choice for the improvement of the country.
Gandhi Raman Nair, email

Maturity needed

If Rahul Gandhi aspires to be elevated as future PM, he will have to ensure a few things. First, he has to behave in a mature way as the leader of opposition. Second, He must ensure that the Congress does not follow just appeasement politics. Third, he should show to the people that the Congress is not run just by one particular family.
Kannoth Gopalakrishnan, email

Emotional win

Ref: *Bharatnatyam at Barbados* (Jun 30). India clinched a resounding victory over South Africa in the T20 World Cup 2024 final, marking a triumphant return to glory after a 13-year long wait. Both Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli announced their retirement from T20 internationals, making the win an emotional moment. Rohit's tactical brilliance and Virat's consistent performances have been instrumental in India's cricketing success, and their departure marks the end of an era.
Bishal Kumar Saha, email

Scripting history

The men in blue scripted history by winning the world cup in Barbados without losing any of the ten matches they played. Team India proved their superiority in the nail-biting last over. They made all Indians proud.
Sahil S, Nileshwar

Withstanding challenges

The gallant victory of our cricket team in the finals will stay in the memories of cricket fans for many years to come. Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh and Hardik Pandya with their consistent bowling, Suryakumar Yadav with his sensational catch at the boundary line and the final over by Hardik gave the team a dramatic surge and proved once again the team's aggression and fortitude to withstand challenges and come up triumphant.
R Pichumani, Kumbakonam

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Narendra Modi @narendramodi
If you're a coffee lover in any part of the world, I invite you to taste the coffee from Araku in Andhra Pradesh. It'll leave you spellbound.

Mamata Banerjee @MamataOfficial
The struggle of Santals under the leadership of Sidho-Kanho against the tyranny and exploitation of the ruler inspires us to raise our heads to protest injustice.

D Raja @ComradeDRaja
Hemant Soren was imprisoned for refusing to bow down to authoritarianism and politics of intimidation. His coming out from jail will strengthen INDIA Bloc's struggle to protect our Constitution.

Upendra Dwivedi takes charge as 30th Army chief

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

General Upendra Dwivedi with outgoing Army chief Manoj Pandey | EXPRESS

THE Indian Army on Sunday got its new Chief of Army Staff (COAS) with General Upendra Dwivedi taking over as the 30th COAS from General Manoj Pande, who superannuated after more than four decades of service to the nation.

General Dwivedi's takeover onsets a wheel of change with a larger reshuffling and also new changes. He is an accomplished military leader, with 40 years of service in the armed forces. An alumnus of Sainik School in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa, he was commissioned into the Regiment of Jammu & Kashmir Rifles in 1984.

The Army, in its statement, said the General has a unique distinction of balanced command as well as staff exposure across Northern, Eastern and Western theatres, in varied operational environments.

He takes over as the COAS, at a time when the global geostrategic environment remains dynamic, with the challenges in the security domain becoming more pronounced due to technological advancements and ever-changing character of modern warfare.

"Operational preparedness to counter security threats to a rising nation, therefore would figure prominently, as a key focus area for the COAS. Concurrently, a focused response strategy, to myriad non-traditional security challenges, too shall be a priority, towards augmenting the nation's defence," the Army added.

EAM reviews bilateral ties with Qatar, discusses Gaza

Talks focus on political issues, trade, investment, energy and tech

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

INDIA and Doha on Sunday reviewed their bilateral relationship during a meeting between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani.

"I was delighted to meet the PM and FM of Doha and conveyed greetings on behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to him and the Emir. We reviewed our bilateral relationship focusing on political issues, trade, investment, energy, technology, culture and people-to-people ties," said Jaishankar from Doha.

The two sides also exchanged views on regional and global issues, including the situation in Gaza. "We also look forward to further enhancement of India-Qatar relations and continued dialogue on issues of mutual interest," Jaishankar added.

Meanwhile, India also attended the Doha UN meet on Afghanistan. Afghanistan thanked India for its assistance. India was represented by joint secretary for Pakistan and Afghanistan, JP Singh.

EAM Jaishankar meets Qatar PM Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani | x

India attends Doha UN meet on Afghanistan

Meanwhile, India also attended the Doha UN meet on Afghanistan. Afghanistan thanked India for its assistance. India was represented by joint secretary for Pakistan and Afghanistan, JP Singh.

This was Jaishankar's third overseas visit since he assumed charge for the second time. The first one was to Sri Lanka and then, the UAE. After returning from Qatar, Jaishankar will go to Asthana to represent India in the SCO Summit.

India and Qatar share historic and friendly relations which are marked by regular exchange of high-level visits. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited Qatar on February 14-15 this year and held discussions with Qatar's Emir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

POWER GAMES

SHAHID FARIDI
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Diplomatic Strokes

MODI-PUTIN TO TALK UKRAINE, RUPEE-ROUBLE DEAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Russia on July 8-9. He is likely to travel onwards to Austria on July 9 before returning to India. Sources said in his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Prime Minister is likely to discuss Russia's ongoing war with Ukraine and the ways of reaching an agreement to bring peace between the two countries. The PM recently met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on the sidelines of the G-7 summit in Italy. Russia has taken a strong stand against vacating the land it has occupied during the war. A recent meeting in Switzerland to explore the possibility of peace between Ukraine and Russia ended without any result due to the Russian stand on occupied territory. Besides playing peacemaker between the two warring nations, the PM will take up a large number of business proposals. Eight Union ministries have been asked to send proposals for discussion during the PM's meeting with Putin. The two leaders are likely to discuss the long-standing payment issue that has cropped up due to US sanctions against Russia. Among the key proposals on the table is the Rupee-Rouble deal. Top officials of the Russian central bank visited New Delhi in the middle of June to prepare the ground to resolve this payment issue. Russian investment proposals in India will also be discussed. Sources said the Russian state-controlled oil giant Rosneft, which had earlier concluded a mega deal to buy Essar Oil, plans to make big investments in India. Russian rolling stock major Metrowagonmash has already bagged the contract for manufacturing 120 Vande Bharat trains. The company is likely to participate in upcoming metro train tenders in India. The Modi-Putin meet is set to strengthen economic ties between the two countries.

Poll Preparation

SPARKS FLY IN CONG MEETINGS; HEADS MAY ROLL

The Congress party has been holding meetings at its headquarters in Delhi to prepare for the state Assembly elections due in three states in October-November this year. These three states are Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand. Elections are also likely to be held for the Jammu and Kashmir state assembly along with the three state elections. Party teams are also visiting states to review its performance in the recent Lok Sabha elections. At a recent meeting in Delhi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior party leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, were shocked when newly-elected Lok Sabha member from Sirsa in Haryana Kumari Selja attacked Deepak Babaria, the AICC general secretary in charge of her state. She accused him of being partisan and said he is not able to see beyond one group and one leader in the state. She was referring to Babaria's perceived proximity to Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Babaria countered her by accusing her of being inaccessible. State president Udaibhan, considered close to Hooda, jumped in to say Selja and others are not allowing him to announce the new team of state office-bearers. Rahul Gandhi played the peacemaker and asked all leaders to work together. Sources, however, said Babaria may be removed from Haryana. Similar scenes were witnessed in Chhattisgarh when a central team met state party workers to review its poor performance in the Lok Sabha elections. The Congress workers blamed domination of Bhupesh Baghel group and the performance of the government led by him for the rout. Based on the feedback by the visiting team, the central leadership may remove state party president Deepak Baij, considered close to Baghel.

Reasi terror attack: NIA hunts for suspects across J&K's Rajouri dist

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday conducted searches at multiple locations across Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir in connection with its probe into the Reasi terrorist attack, which claimed nine lives including that of a child.

According to a senior NIA official, "The searches, conducted as part of the NIA probe in the case, led to the seizure of various items showing linkages between the terrorists and over ground workers. The investigators are now examining the seized material to unravel the entire conspiracy."

The terror attack took place on June 9 in the Pouni area of the Reasi district when terrorists opened fire on a bus carrying pilgrims from Shiv Khori to Katra, causing the vehicle to plunge into a gorge, as a sniper shot hit the driver of the bus.

The NIA took over the probe into the case on June 15 following a directive issued by the Union home ministry.

Officials in the agency said that the raids were conducted on the basis of leads provided by one Hakam Khan aka Hakin Din, a key suspect arrested on June 19 in connection with the Reasi terror attack.

They further said the preliminary probe by the investigative team found that Hakam Khan allegedly provided safe havens, logistical support, and sustenance to the terrorists.

According to the officials, Hakam Khan not only harboured the attackers, but also facilitated their movements and actions leading up to the deadly incident.

During questioning, Khan conceded that the terrorists paid him ₹6,000, which was recovered from his possession.

Earlier in June, Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a series of terror attacks, prompting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to review the security situation in the Union Territory. During the meeting, the PM Modi had said the government is "seriously" concerned about the recent terror attacks and no effort would be spared to teach the enemies of the country a lesson.

"The enemies of peace and humanity are not happy with the development in Jammu and Kashmir. There were some terror attacks... The government has taken it seriously," Modi had said at a function in Srinagar during his two-day visit early this month.

Crucial links

According to an NIA official, "The searches, conducted as part of the NIA probe in the case, led to the seizure of various items showing linkages between the terrorists and over ground workers. We are now examining the seized material to unravel the entire conspiracy." The terror attack took place on June 9 in the Pouni area of the Reasi district when terrorists opened fire on a bus carrying pilgrims from Shiv Khori to Katra.

CBI registers case in fake admissions of 4L students in Haryana govt schools

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE CBI, which is probing the highly controversial NEET-UG exam paper leaks, has registered yet another case in connection with 4 lakh 'fake students' detected in Haryana government schools in 2016.

Interestingly, the Punjab and Haryana High Court had handed over the case to the CBI on November 2, 2019, but the federal probe agency registered an FIR only earlier this week, after a delay of nearly five years.

Meanwhile, sources said that the CBI had approached the Supreme Court claiming that the investigation may require huge manpower and the probe should be handed over to the state police. The apex court dismissed the petition recently, after which the CBI registered the FIR.

According to the FIR, the High Court was informed in 2016 that a verification of data revealed that there were 22 lakh students in government schools in different classes, but only 18 lakh students could be verified and four lakh were fake admissions.

The court was also told that certain benefits were being given to the students who belong to backward or poor sections of the society to encourage them to attend schools.

The High Court had ordered the state vigilance to appoint a senior officer to enquire into the suspected siphoning off of funds for four lakh "non-existent" students and had ordered fixing of responsibility.

On the vigilance bureau's recommendations, seven FIRs were registered in the state. In its 2019 order, the High Court noted that the investigation had been "very slow" and ordered to transfer of the probe to the CBI to expedite it.

At snail's pace

Interestingly, the Punjab and Haryana High Court had handed over the case to the CBI on November 2, 2019, but the federal probe agency registered an FIR only earlier this week, after a delay of nearly five years.

PM skirted NEET, infra collapses in his radio programme, says Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Congress on Sunday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not mentioning issues such as the NEET-UG paper leak, railway accidents and infrastructure collapses during his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat'.

Taking a jibe at Modi after he addressed the first episode of the programme in his third term, the chairman of Congress' media and publicity department, Pawan Khera, said that it was expected that the PM would do 'dhang ki baat' (talk business) on Sunday.

The Congress leader said that the PM had not found it important to discuss issues that the youth and the middle-class of the country wanted to hear from him. "He did not say anything on NEET, or railway accidents, or the daily infrastructure collapses that we are hearing of. He did not speak on the serious incidents that happened at the Delhi airport, in which a person lost his life."

"The PM did not speak on any issue of people's interest.

During polls, you (Modi) were pitting the north against the south... Do you think people will forget? What you say during the campaign is the truth, what you're doing now is propaganda

Pawan Khera, Congress leader

His method has been to change the agenda. Because everyone is talking about NEET, the scams, to divert attention, you are talking about umbrellas from Kerala," Khera said.

"During the elections, you were pitting the north against the south... Do you think people will forget? What you say during the campaign is the truth, what you are doing now is a propaganda," said Khera.

Halt encroachments in Mirzapur sloth bear reserve, govt told

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

ENVIRONMENTALISTS have written a letter to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, demanding immediate intervention to stop encroachments and constructions in a proposed sloth bear conservation reserve in Mirzapur forest division of eastern Uttar Pradesh.

The forest, site of the proposed reserve, is a habitat for for at least 24 threatened terrestrial animals unique to the Vindhyan-Kaimoor region.

Vindhyan Ecology and Natural History Foundation (VENHF), a voluntary research group comprising environmental scientists, GIS experts, lawyers, and concerned residents, has drawn attention to violations of conservation laws, such as Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Rules, Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, in the Marihan range of the Mirzapur forest division.

The letter pointed out construction of roads by clearing large-scale vegetation with heavy machinery, and other construction activities in the forest adjoining Dadri Khurd, Sarso-Kumbia Marg, and Jogia Dari waterfall in the last couple of days. "There has been massive earthwork undertaken to clear vegetation, dig out soil, and construct a road," said Debadityo Sinha, founding trustee of VENHF.

The letter, which attached some photographs clicked from the site on June 27, also said the same site was earlier proposed for a 1320-MW coal-based thermal power plant to be set up by a private firm.

However, the environmental clearance of the said project was set aside by the Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal, New Delhi, on December 21, 2016.

The tribunal also directed that the site be restored to its original condition. "It came to my notice that the company has again applied for the environmental clearance for the same project," said Debadityo Sinha. The letter also underlined that the forest land is an important part of environmentally sensitive zone and is the catchment of several tributaries of the river Ganga, which flows to the north.

RICH AND CRUCIAL ECOSYSTEM

Mirzapur forest division of eastern Uttar Pradesh is part of the proposed Sloth Bear Conservation Reserve

The forest is a crucial habitat for at least 24 threatened terrestrial animal species unique to Vindhyan-Kaimoor ecosystem, including leopard, Bengal fox and striped hyena

Road construction, heavy earth work and largescale clearing of vegetation in the forest adjoining to Dadri Khurd, Sarso-Kumbia Marg & Jogia Dari waterfall are harming wildlife

In a first, fauna checklist of over 1 lakh species launched

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

THE Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) on Sunday launched a checklist of India's fauna covering 104,561 species on the occasion of the 109th Foundation Day of Zoological Survey of India.

The 'Fauna of India' checklist portal is the first comprehensive document on the faunal species reported from India. It comprises 121 checklists of all known taxa covering 36 phyla. Endemic, threatened, and scheduled species have been included in the list.

Environment minister Bhupender Yadav said, during inauguration of the Animal Taxonomy Summit-2024, that India has become the first country in the world to prepare a checklist of its entire fauna.

"The silver lining is that India is a global champion in biodiversity conservation. Our tradition, ethos and values respect nature and promote biodiversity conservation," Yadav said. "The faunal checklist will be an invaluable reference for taxonomists, researchers, academicians, conservation managers and policymakers."

The minister said Prime Minister's mission for nature was reflected in 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' programme, undertaken after the NDA formed government for the third time.

"PM's Mission LIFE put forth before the world the theme of sustainable consumption and conservation," he said. Emphasising the concept of 'recycle economy', he said, "Whatever we take from nature, efforts should be made to return the same in pristine, pure form."

Yadav highlighted initiatives like the International Big Cat Alliance to preserve biodiversity and species. He also released a publication of ZSI, 'Animal Discoveries – 2023' comprising 641 new animal species and 'Plant Discoveries – 2023' of Botanical Survey of India with 339 plant species.

30 INJURED

A newborn died, and more than 30 passengers sustained injuries after a private bus overturned in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur on Sunday, police said. The accident occurred near the Lalkhadan flyover when the bus was heading to Sarangarh town.

1 KILLED | 4 OTHERS INJURED IN FIRING IN UP'S HARDOI

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	27	Mumbai	35	29
Bhopal	43	28	Panaji	32	28
Jaipur	41	30	Patna	41	27
Amritsar	40	23	Lucknow	42	27
Chennai	39	30	Port Blair	34	28
Kolkata	36	26	Imphal	23	18
Srinagar	18	08	Chandigarh	42	23

MVA to fight Maha assembly elections jointly, says Pawar

'Moral responsibility of major parties to protect interests of smaller allies'

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Sunday said his party, Congress, and the Shiv Sena (UBT) led by Uddhav Thackeray will jointly contest the Maharashtra assembly elections due in October.

He said it is the moral responsibility of the major opposition parties in Maharashtra to protect in the assembly polls the interests of smaller allies, which were part of the coalition in the Lok Sabha elections.

The NCP (SP), Congress and the Shiv Sena (UBT) are constituents of the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), which was in power in the state from November 2019 till June 2022 before the collapse of the Thackeray-led government.

Addressing a press conference, Pawar said, "As Arjuna's target (in the epic Mahabharata) was an eye (of a fish), our eyes are all set on the elections in Maharashtra. The Congress, NCP (SP) and Uddhav Thackeray's Sena (UBT) will jointly contest the Vidhan Sabha polls."

He said the talks on seat-sharing in the state have not begun but will commence soon. The people gave a good response to the NCP (SP), Shiv Sena (UBT) and Congress in the Lok Sabha polls. "The Left parties and Peasants and Workers Party (PWP) were also part of the coalition but we could not give them seats in the Lok Sabha polls. It is our moral responsibility to protect the interests of these parties. MVA will go ahead with these parties in assembly polls," he added.

Earlier, Pawar clarified that MVA is not going to project a chief ministerial face in the assembly elections. This is in contrast to the preference of its ally Shiv Sena (UBT) that Uddhav Thackeray should be projected as the CM candidate. Pawar said the MVA is confident of coming to power in the state, pointing out that if the assembly-wise trend of the Lok Sabha polls is analysed, it shows that out of the 288 assembly segments, MVA candidates were leading in 155. The number needed to form a government is 145. MVA won 30-plus seats in the Lok Sabha elections. The BJP-led front could win only 17 of the 48 Lok Sabha constituencies.

Sujata Saunik first woman chief secretary in Maharashtra

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

SENIOR IAS officer Sujata Saunik on Sunday took over as Maharashtra's Chief Secretary, becoming the first woman in the state's history to occupy the top post. Saunik, an IAS officer of the 1987 batch, succeeds Nitin Kareer who retired as the chief secretary on Sunday. She will have a year's tenure before retiring in June next year, an official said. Kareer handed over the charge to Saunik at a ceremony held at Mantralaya.

Maharashtra police department in-charge is Rashmi Shukma, so state's two top posts — chief secretary and state police chief — are held by women. Before her elevation as the chief secretary, Saunik, whose husband Manoj Saunik is also a former state chief secretary, was the additional chief secretary in the state home department.

Sujata Saunik has three decades of public policy and governance experience in healthcare, finance, education, disaster management, and peacekeeping at district, state, and federal levels and in international organisations as part of IAS and United Nations.

Conspiracy being hatched to jail me again, says Soren

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

IN a scathing attack on BJP-led government at the Centre, JMM working president and former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren said that it has been merely two days that he was released from jail, and a conspiracy is being hatched to send him to jail again.

Soren was speaking at first ever government programme after being released from jail at Bhognadih in Santhal Pargana region of Jharkhand on Sunday. Earlier, Soren reached Bhognadih along with his wife Kalpana Soren and CM Champai Soren and garlanded the statue of Sido-Kanhu on the occasion of Hul Diwas.

Hul Diwas is observed on June 30, 1855 to mark an uprising in the forested hills of Damin-i-koh (present-day eastern Jharkhand) by the two brothers Sido and Kanhu Murmu, along with brothers Channd-Bhairav and sisters Phulo-Jhano against the exploitative moneylenders (mahajans)and landowners (zamindars), and their colonial masters.

Incidentally, Assam Chief Minister and State Election co-in charge of Jharkhand, Himanta Biswa Sarma was on a day-long visit to Jharkhand on Saturday. Sarma met prominent leaders from tribal communities to discuss the strategy for the Assembly polls.

"It has been only two days since I was released from jail and their (BJP) leaders have started hovering to conspire and send me to jail again," said Soren. He added that his forefathers have survived jails and execution too. If not for the struggle, then there would not have been a government of Adivasi-Moolwasi in state, he said.

PATNA DIARY

RAMASHANKAR
Our correspondent in Bihar
ramashankar@newindianexpress.com

Domestic, foreign investors at mega event

After the grand success of the 2023 edition, Bihar is set to host domestic and foreign investors at a mega event in December this year. The two-day 'Bihar Business Connect' event will be organised on December 11 and 12 in the state capital. In the lead-up to the event, roadshows will be held in various cities, starting from Kolkata on Monday. Bihar Industries Minister Nitish Mishra said that Bihar has a strategic locational advantage which can cater to the entire northeast, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan and its air and road connectivity is par excellence. The state can also boast three airports in Patna, Gaya and Darbhanga.

BCCI okays cricket panel to establish stadium

The Board for Cricket in Control in India (BCCI) has given go-ahead to the Bihar Cricket Association to begin with the construction work of Moin-ul-Haq stadium to establish state of the art stadium and a dedicated cricket academy in the state, with an aim at enhancing the cricketing landscape in Bihar. BCCI secretary Jay Shah wrote to Bihar chief secretary Brajesh Mehrotra recently assuring the latter that the newly built stadium would be dedicated to the development of cricket in the state. BCA president Rakesh Tiwary said that the Moin-ul-Haq would be a world class stadium.

Manjhi smells conspiracy behind bridge collapse

Blame game is on after the collapse of several bridges in Bihar. While union minister and Hindustani Awam Morcha patron Jitan Ram Manjhi smelt a conspiracy behind the collapse of five bridges in the state in just 11 days, deputy chief minister and BJP state chief Samrat Choudhary said that the government would not sit idle over such a serious matter and guilty would not be spared, whoever they may be. Manjhi said that such incidents didn't happen earlier, which raised questions. Leader of opposition in state assembly Tejashwi Prasad Yadav said that with double engine government, there is 'there is mangalraj (good rule) in Bihar'.

Chirag supports special status for Bihar a day after demand by JD(U)

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

A day after Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United) demanded special status to Bihar, union minister and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan on Sunday extended his party's support to the demand and said that it should not be contended as 'pressure politics'.

While interacting with media persons after his arrival from New Delhi, where he took oath as union minister, Chirag said that his party is in support of Bihar being accorded special status. "Which political party will not want special status to Bihar," he asked.

In response to a media query, the union minister said that it should not be considered as "pressure politics" but it has been a long pending demand of all political parties to accelerate the pace of development in the state. The demand for special status is for the people's benefit, he added.

Elaborating further, Chirag said, "We are part of the NDA government at the centre. BJP is the largest party in our alliance and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is our leader. We all have faith in him. If we do not put forward our demand before him, who else would we demand?" he asked.

His remarks came a day after the national executive of JD(U) chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar passed a resolution on Saturday, demanding 'special status' or 'special financial package' for Bihar from the Centre. The party had made a similar demand on earlier occasions as well.

Newly-elected JD(U) working president and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Kumar Jha said that Bihar had registered growth by utilising its own resources as much as possible but the central assistance was necessary to put the state on a high-growth trajectory.

JD(U) executive committee meeting was held in New Delhi on June 29, which was attended by party's ministers in Narendra Modi 0.3 government besides other senior leaders. The LJP(RV) chief also clarified that Nitish Kumar would lead the NDA in the state assembly election due next year. Taking a potshot at the opposition, Chirag said, "This time too, the opposition made claims in the Lok Sabha polls that the account will not be opened and a lot more but the result proved otherwise.

Bengal Guv asks Mamata to issue white paper on state's finances

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

WEST Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose has alleged a financial breakdown in the state and told the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC government to come out with a white paper on the state's financial condition.

The governor's statement came on a day he met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Delhi.

"The state's fiscal situation is confronting multiple risks and public finance management issues exposing serious lapses on the part of the government. It is very shocking to see that the state is facing a financial breakdown. Its public finance is in the doldrums," he said in a statement issued by Raj Bhavan on Saturday.

"Considering the grave nature of the economic scenario, the Governor calls upon the CM upon the authority vested in him under Article 167 of the Constitution read with Rule 30 of the Rules of Business for West Bengal framed under Article 166 of the Constitution, to place a comprehensive report on the state's financial situation before the council of ministers and issue a white paper for the information of the people," the statement said.

Raj govt scheme: Farmers to get ₹2k in addition to PM yojana

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

RAJASTHAN Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma launched Chief Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana today. During an event in Tonk, the state government announced an additional annual financial assistance of ₹2,000 to farmers who are already beneficiaries of the Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana. Sharma directly transferred the funds to the farmers' bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Under this scheme, the first installment of ₹1,000 has been disbursed, followed by two installments of ₹500 each. The Cooperative Department has been designated as the nodal department for the effective implementation of the scheme.

More than 65 lakh farmers in Rajasthan received over ₹650 crore directly into their bank accounts as part of this first installment. This initiative supports the existing beneficiaries of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana.

In addition, Sharma also distributed ₹3 lakh each to 51 women-run village service cooperative societies.

These societies, managed exclusively by women, aim to develop leadership skills and empower women to make decisions for their own development and welfare.

₹650 cr to farmers

More than 65 lakh farmers in Rajasthan received over ₹650 crore directly into their bank accounts as part of this first installment. This initiative supports the existing beneficiaries of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana. In addition, Sharma also distributed ₹3 lakh each to 51 women-run village service cooperative societies. These societies, managed exclusively by women, aim to develop leadership skills and empower women to make decisions for themselves

The timing of the scheme's launch is significant, coming after the BJP's loss of 11 out of 25 seats in the recent Lok Sabha elections. Analysts suggest that the party's poor performance may be attributed to discontent within the influential Jat community, particularly over the rejecting of MP Rahul Kaswan's candidacy from the Churu seat. Jats, who make up a significant portion of the agricultural sector, are crucial to the state's electoral landscape.

Additionally, upcoming by-elections, triggered by five Congress MLAs becoming MPs, are seen as a critical test for both the BJP and CM Sharma, who assumed office after winning his first MLA seat. Launching this scheme is perceived as an effort to regain the support of the Jats the politically powerful farmer community ahead of these elections.

Agriculture Minister Kirori Lal Meena, who shared the stage with CM Sharma, also conveyed a message of party unity. Despite reported dissatisfaction with the distribution of cabinet responsibilities, Meena's participation signaled solidarity within the party ranks.

Experts believe that showcasing unity between CM Sharma and Meena is a strategic move by the BJP to prevent any negative perceptions among voters, thereby strengthening their position in the upcoming by-elections.

Drive safe: Most accidents involve two-wheelers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Ahmedabad

TNIE Editorial Director Prabhu Chawla joins Ahmedabad Traffic DCP Saffin Hasan and GIDC dignitaries for Hero's #RideSafeIndia campaign in Ahmedabad | EXPRESS

> **No matter how much effort the system puts in, success is limited unless people are aware. The New Indian Express has initiated an awareness campaign to address this issue, distributing about 10,000 helmets across six cities each in UP and Tamil Nadu, and Ahmedabad**
>
> Prabhu Chawla, Editorial Director of The New Indian Express

THE New Indian Express Group and Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest motorcycle and scooter manufacturer, launched the #RideSafeIndia initiative in Ahmedabad on Saturday. This project is a significant component of the two brands' collaborative Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts.

The 'Ride Safe India' campaign, initiated by the New Indian Express Group in partnership with 'Hero We Care,' Hero MotoCorp's comprehensive CSR platform, aims to raise awareness and educate two-wheeler riders about the importance of following traffic regulations and prioritizing personal safety.

In the presence of Safin Hasan, the Deputy Commissioner of Police for Traffic in Ahmedabad (East), Editorial Director of the New Indian Express Group Prabhu Chawla, and dignitaries from the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) Ahmedabad, the New Indian Express Group distributed jackets and helmets to riders as part of the initiative.

The Traffic DCP of Ahmedabad (East) emphasized the importance of wearing helmets and driving the vehicle safely. "Helmets are life savers. Wearing a helmet only when the traffic police are present and hanging it on the side when they are not is a wrong habit," said the officer.

"Various explanations and excuses are given for not wearing helmets, and while people may have confidence in their driving skills, a small mistake by someone else can be fatal. Helmets protect lives in all situations. As long as vehicles exist, people will continue to make mistakes, but helmets provide crucial protection," Safin Hasan said.

For traffic signal violators, the officer said: "Waiting at the signal causes far less harm. We need to take a moment to reflect on what we are doing in terms of following traffic rules and saving lives." Prabhu Chawla, Editorial Director of the New Indian Express, remarked, "Gujarat is surpassing the vision Prime Minister Narendra Modi had for traffic control and other matters."

On road safety and related issues, Chawla stated, "No matter how much effort the system puts in, success is limited unless people are aware. In India, 60-70% of accidents involve motorcycles and scooters. The New Indian Express has initiated an awareness campaign to address this issue, distributing about 10,000 helmets across six cities each in Uttar Pradesh & Tamil Nadu, and Ahmedabad."

As part of the #RideSafeIndia initiative, helmets and jackets were distributed to two-wheeler riders in Ahmedabad.

Panic grips pilgrims as avalanche stops short of Kedarnath temple

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

A massive avalanche hit the Gandhi Sarovar located four kilometres above the Kedarnath Dham early Sunday morning. Devotees who went to the temple this morning captured the avalanche, which occurred around 5 am near the Chorabari glacier, on their mobile phones. According to the information available, no damage of any kind occurred from this avalanche, even though avalanches occasionally occur on this snowy peak.

Environmentalists are expressing concerns about this avalanche incident from an environmental perspective regarding the fragile ecosystem of the Himalayas.

The District Disaster Management Officer of Rudraprayag, Nandan Singh Rajwar, shared information received from Sector Officer Kedarnath with this daily, stating, "On Sunday morning around 5:03 am, an avalanche occurred near Gandhi Sarovar on the mountain behind the Kedarnath shrine. The snow from the mountain came down quite a bit, although the distance of this avalanche from the temple to the summit of Sumeru mountain near Gandhi Sarovar was about 5 kilometers."

As per reports from the Rudraprayag District Disaster Management Office, following the avalanche incident, snow began cascading down the mountain, creating a commotion in Kedarnath. The avalanche persisted for an extended duration. Nonetheless, avalanches are not unusual on this mountain and occur at regular intervals.

Speaking to the newspaper, environmentalist Jagat Singh Jungli expressed deep concern regarding the incident, emphasising the importance of addressing the ongoing occurrences in the Himalayan region. He highlighted that these incidents are a direct result of construction activities and frequent helicopter flights in the area. Jungli stressed the urgent need to take proactive measures to safeguard the Himalayan region before irreversible damage is done.

Referring to scientific data, Jungli told this newspaper, "Helicopter flights cause significant damage to glaciers, and such incidents are on the rise in the Himalayan region." It is fortunate that there was no loss of life or property, but the emission of heli-fuel and companies operating helicopters in this area are destroying the plant wealth of this region."

7 dead
After storms lash France, Switzerland

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	27	21	LC	Los Angeles	31	17	SNY
Colombo	31	26	SNY	Melbourne	12	2	SNY
Dhaka	30	27	LR	Moscow	31	20	SNY
Dubai	37	33	SNY	New York	26	18	SNY
Houston	37	28	SNY	Singapore	31	26	SNY
Istanbul	31	21	SNY	Toronto	23	15	SNY
London	21	14	LC	Washington	22	13	SNY

END OF CONFLICT

Colombia rebel group agrees to ceasefire after talks with govt

CARACAS

A Colombian splinter group of former FARC guerrillas known as Segunda Marquetalia has agreed to a "unilateral ceasefire" and the release of captives following negotiations with the government, according to a joint statement on Saturday.

The talks, held this week in the Venezuelan capital Caracas, are the latest attempt by Colombia's leftist President Gustavo Petro to end six decades of conflict between the government and rebel groups.

As part of the ceasefire deal, Segunda Marquetalia committed to the "delivery of the people they are holding", according to a document signed by chief government negotiator Armando Novoa and rebel representative Walter Mendoza.

"The full implementation of de-escalation will begin as soon as the presidential decree on offensive military operations comes into force," said the text, without specifying a date.

A meeting in Tumaco, in western Colombia, will be held between the two parties "no later than July 20" to present the "de-escalation" agreement and to define a timetable for identifying social and economic projects.

The accord follows days of negotiations in Caracas, where seven delegates from each side began talks Monday.

Segunda Marquetalia is a rebel group that broke away from a historic 2016 ceasefire deal with FARC guerillas.

Those present at the Caracas talks include the rebels' leader known under the alias Ivan Marquez, who was thought to be dead until he reappeared in a video in May. *AFP*

French voters propel far-right to strong lead in polls

Projections by most polling agencies suggest National Rally stands a good chance of winning a majority in Parliament for first time

PARIS

FRENCH voters propelled the far-right National Rally to a strong lead in first-round legislative elections Sunday and plunged the country into political uncertainty, according to polling projections.

Projections by polling agencies suggest the National Rally stands a good chance of winning a majority in the lower house of parliament for the first time, with an estimated one-third of the first-round vote, nearly double their 18% in the first round in 2022. The party is building on its success in European elections that prompted Macron to dissolve parliament and call the surprise vote. The second round will be decisive but leaves open huge questions on how Macron will share power with a prime minister who is hostile to most of his policies.

The two-round elections that wrap up July 7 could impact European financial markets, Western support for Ukraine and the management of France's nuclear arsenal and global military force.

Many French voters are frustrated about inflation and other economic concerns, as well as President Emmanuel Macron's leadership, seen as arrogant and out-of-touch with their lives. Marine Le Pen's anti-immigration National Rally party has tapped that discontent, notably via online platforms like *TikTok*, and led in preelection opinion polls.

A new coalition on the left, the New Popular Front, also poses a challenge to the pro-business Macron and his centrist alliance Together for the Republic. It includes the French Socialists and Communists, the greens and the hard-left France Unbowed party and vows to reverse an unpopular pension reform law that raised the retirement age to 64, among other economic reforms.

There are 49.5 million registered voters who will choose the 577 members of the National Assembly, France's influential lower house of parliament. Turnout stood at an unusually high 59% with three hours to go before polls close.

That's 20 percentage points higher than turnout at the same time in the last first-round vote in 2022.

Some pollsters suggested the high turnout could temper the outcome for the hard right National Rally, possibly indicating voters made an extra effort to cast ballots for fear that it could win. The vote was taking place during the traditional first week of summer vacation in France, and absentee ballot requests were at least five times higher than in 2022. *AP*

French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron leave the voting booth in Le Touquet-Paris-Plage, northern France, on Sunday | AP

ASIA MATTERS

MALAYSIA

AI SCAMS TARGET HOTELIERS

Stronger regulation and protection are needed with the alarming rise of scams powered by artificial intelligence (AI) targeting hoteliers and travellers, *The Straits Times* reported. Malaysia Budget & Business Hotel Association president Sri Ganesh Michiel said although such cases are rare in the country with cooperation between hoteliers and online travel agencies (OTAs), they are still a cause for concern. He highlighted the urgent need for government intervention to regulate OTAs, many are based overseas. Using AI, scammers create realistic e-mails to trick people.

THAILAND

1 KILLED, 16 INJURED IN CAR BOMB

At least one person was killed and 16 others injured when a bomb exploded in front of a police flat in Bannang Sata district of Yala province on Sunday, *Bangkok Post* reported. The explosion happened in front of a flat belonging to Bannang Sata police station at about 10.30 am. The blast's impact damaged glass panes in nearby houses.

SINGAPORE

MAN ARRESTED FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING

A Singaporean man who was wanted over suspected links to drug trafficking and sale in the country has been nabbed and charged, the Central Narcotics Bureau said on Sunday. The 43-year-old, who operated from overseas, had been out of the country since 2019, *CNA* reported. CNB said the man was wanted for his suspected involvement in supplying drugs to associates in Singapore for their subsequent trafficking and sale locally. His involvement came to light during the course of CNB's investigations into a drug trafficking case in February 2021.

Fighting rages in Gaza City's Shujaiya district for 4th day

GAZA

HEAVY battles and bombardment hit Gaza City's Shujaiya district for a fourth day on Sunday, months after Israel declared Hamas's command structure dismantled in the northern area. Tens of thousands of Palestinians have fled the devastated neighbourhood, where the army said it has fought Palestinian militants both "above and below ground" in tunnels.

Months of on-and-off talks towards a Gaza truce and hostage release deal have meanwhile made little progress, with Hamas saying Saturday there was "nothing new" in a revised plan presented by US mediators. The Israeli military said ground and air forces had carried out raids on compounds used by militants and "eliminated several terrorists" over the past 24 hours.

It also reported clashes in central Gaza and the southern Rafah area, a week after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that the "intense phase" of the war raging since October 7 was nearing an end.

The United Nations humanitarian agency OCHA estimated that "60,000 to 80,000 people were displaced" from Shujaiya since new fighting broke out there on Thursday and the army issued evacuation orders. For those who remain, "our lives have become hell", said 50-year-old Shujaiya resident Siham al-Shawa.

She said people were trapped as strikes could happen "anywhere" and "it is difficult to get out of the neighbourhood under fire".

"We do not know where to go to protect ourselves."

Netanyahu said Israeli "forces are operating in Rafah, Shujaiya, everywhere in the Gaza Strip". According to a statement from Netanyahu's office, he told his cabinet that "dozens of terrorists are being eliminated every day."

Six people were killed in an air strike at dawn targeting a house in Rafah, said medics at Nasser Hospital where the bodies were taken.

Artillery shelling also rocked parts of the city, witnesses said. About a month after US President Joe Biden outlined a truce plan, Washington last week presented "new language" for parts of the proposed deal, according to US news site *Axios*.

A Hamas official in Lebanon, Osama Hamdan, confirmed that the Islamist movement had received the latest proposal but said it presented "no real progress in the negotiations".

Hamdan labelled the proposals "a waste of time" that aimed to give Israel "additional time... to practise genocide".

Netanyahu on Sunday said "Hamas is the only obstacle to the release of our hostages".

With military and diplomatic "pressure... we will return them all", he said.

The Gaza conflict has also led to soaring tensions on Israel's northern border with Lebanon, where the army has traded cross-border fire with the Hezbollah movement.

Hezbollah on Sunday claimed several attacks on Israeli military positions. Israeli attacked in the border area. *AFP*

WAR WATCH
ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 268

TOLL SO FAR
39,569

Israel drone strike kills West Bank militant

The Palestinian health ministry said an Israeli strike on Sunday in the occupied West Bank killed a man identified by the Islamic Jihad militant group as one of its commanders. The Israeli military did not immediately comment on the attack, which official Palestinian news agency *Wafa* said was carried out with a drone. *Wafa* identified the slain man as Saeed Izzat Jaber, 24

2 detained over attack outside Israeli embassy

Two men were remanded in custody on Sunday in connection with an attack outside the Israeli embassy in Belgrade that Serbian authorities called a "targeted terrorist act", a minister said. The assailant, whom the police identified as being a "convert" to Islam, shot a Serbian police officer in the neck

Suicide attacks in Nigeria kill at least 18, injure 19

KANO

AT least 18 people were killed and 19 seriously wounded in suicide attacks targeting a wedding, a hospital and a funeral in northeastern Nigeria on Saturday, authorities said.

The region has been scarred by more than a decade of violence by jihadist group Boko Haram, which did not immediately claim responsibility for the string of attacks.

In one of three blasts on Saturday in the town of Gwoza, a woman with a baby strapped to her back detonated explosives in the middle of a wedding ceremony, according to a state police spokesman.

Victims of suicide attacks are treated at a hospital in Maiduguri on Saturday | AFP

"At about 1545 (1445 GMT) a woman carrying a baby on her back detonated an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) she had on her at a crowded motor park," Borno State police spokesman Nahum Kenneth Daso said.

Women suicide bombers also targeted a hospital in the same town, which lies across the border from Cameroon. Another attack was later carried out at the funeral for victims of the wedding blast, they said.

At least 18 people were killed and 42 others injured in the spate of attacks, according to the Borno State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA).

"So far, 18 deaths comprising children, men, females and pregnant women" have been reported, agency head Barkindo Saidu said in a report.

Nineteen "seriously injured" people were taken to the regional capital Maiduguri, while 23 others were awaiting evacuation, Saidu said in the report.

In recent years, jihadists attack rural communities in Nigeria on a regular basis. *AFP*

Conservative, Labour leaders woo Hindu voters just ahead of UK elections

LONDON

ON the final weekend of campaigning ahead of the UK general election on Thursday, both Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and the man who is fighting for his job at 10 Downing Street Labour Leader Keir Starmer, have hit the temple trail to woo British Hindu voters.

While 44-year-old Sunak was at the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Neasden on Sunday to promise to keep trying to 'make the community proud', 61-year-old Starmer chose another north London Swaminarayan Temple in Kingsbury on Friday to reiterate his commitment to building a 'strategic partnership with India'.

The move follows a 'Hindu Manifesto' being launched by an umbrella group of British Hindu organisations for the first time ahead of a British general election, calling on elected representatives to take proactive steps to protect Hindu places of worship and tackle anti-Hindu hate. "This mandir stands as a great statement of the contributions that this community makes to Britain,' said Sunak, in his speech at the iconic Neasden Temple, where he offered prayers and sought blessings from the elderly in the gathering. "Education, hard work, family, those are my values. Those are your values. Those are Conservative values," he declared in his election pitch.

Rishi Sunak and wife Akshata Murty at the BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir in London on Saturday evening | PTI

Meanwhile, Starmer was welcomed to the tunes of an India-Scottish pipe band at the Kingsbury Temple, where he also began his speech in the same way as Sunak with 'Jai Swaminarayan'. About, one million Hindus live in Britain. *PTI*

EXPRESS READ

Xi to attend SCO summit in Kazakh capital

Beijing: Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the 24th summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Kazakhstan's capital Astana this week, the Chinese Foreign Ministry announced on Sunday. He will also pay a state visit to Tajikistan, it said

Hurricane Beryl forecast to become Category 4

San Juan: Hurricane Beryl is forecast to strengthen into a powerful Category 4 storm as it approaches the southeast Caribbean, which began shutting down on Sunday amid urgent pleads from government officials for people to take shelter. Hurricane warnings were for Barbados, St. Lucia, Grenada

2 wildfires break out near Greece's capital

Athens: Two large wildfires were burning on Sunday near Greece's capital of Athens, and authorities sent emergency messages for some residents to evacuate and others to stay at home and close their windows to protect themselves from smoke. The first blaze, southeast of Athens, began in early afternoon

Democratic Party supporters, donors want Biden to step aside before Aug

NEW YORK

A sense of concern is growing inside the top ranks of the Democratic Party that leaders of Joe Biden's campaign and the Democratic National Committee are not taking seriously enough the impact of the president's troubling debate performance earlier in the week.

DNC Chairman Jaime Harrison and Biden campaign manager Julie Chavez Rodriguez held a Saturday afternoon call with dozens of committee members across the country, a group of some of the most influential members of the party. They largely ignored Biden's weak showing Thursday night or the avalanche of criticism that followed.

Multiple committee members on the call, most granted anonymity to talk about the private discussion, described feeling like they were being gaslighted — that they were being asked to ignore the dire nature of the party's predicament. The call, they said, may have worsened a widespread sense of panic among elected officials, donors and other stakeholders. Instead, the people said, Harrison offered what they described as a rosy assessment of Biden's path forward.

President Joe Biden boards Air Force One at LaGuardia International Airport on Saturday in New York | AP

The chat function was disabled and there were no questions allowed.

"I was hoping for more of a substantive conversation instead of, 'Hey, let's go out there and just be cheerleaders,' without actually addressing a very serious issue that unfolded on American television for millions of people to see," said Joe Salazar, an elected DNC member from Colorado, who was on the call. "There were a number of things that could have been said in addressing the situation. But we didn't get that. We were being gaslit."

Many donors, party strategists and rank-and-file DNC members are publicly and privately saying they want the 81-year-old Biden to step aside to allow the party to select a younger replacement at the Democratic National Convention in August.

As of now, though, Biden's closest allies insist he remains well-positioned to compete against Republican Donald Trump and have given no indication they will push him to end his campaign. *AP*

7 killed, dozens wounded after missile slams in south Ukraine

KYIV

RUSSIAN missiles slammed into a town in southern Ukraine, killing seven civilians, including children, and wounding dozens, local authorities reported.

Ukrainian officials published photos of bodies stretched out under picnic blankets in a park in Vilniansk, and deep craters in the blackened earth next to the charred, twisted remains of a building.

At least 38 people were wounded in Saturday evening's attack, authorities said, and declared a day of mourning on Sunday. Vilniansk is in the Zaporizhzhia region, less than 30 kms from the local capital and north of the front lines, as Russian forces continue to occupy part of the province.

Local Gov. Ivan Fedorov said that three children were among the dead and nine more were among the 38 wounded.

He said the strike damaged a shop, residential buildings, and an unspecified "critical infrastructure" facility in Vilniansk. AP

₹26,565 CR have been infused by FPIs in Indian equities in June.

Essential tips and guidelines for Income Tax Return filing

For the Financial Year 2023-24 and Assessment Year 2024-25, the deadline to file ITR is July 31, 2024, and taxpayers can choose either the old or new tax regime

MONIKA YADAV @New Delhi

AS the deadline for filing income tax returns on July 31 is approaching, it's essential for individual taxpayers to submit their ITR in advance to avoid last-minute rush. Filing your Income Tax Return (ITR) is essential for several reasons. It ensures compliance with the law, helping you avoid penalties for late submission.

By filing on time, you can claim any eligible tax refunds while also providing important financial documentation for loans or other transactions. Additionally, regular filing builds a strong financial history, which can be beneficial in the long term.

It is to be noted that under the new tax regime, individuals with a net taxable income of up to ₹7 lakh are eligible for a tax rebate under section 87A. For those opting to pay taxes under the old regime, the rebate limit remains at ₹5 lakh.

Importance of filing ITR

In case an individual has no taxable income or when her total income is below the taxable threshold set by the government, even then she should file a Nil Return. It is important to file such a return to fulfil the legal requirement of submitting an ITR and to maintain a record with the tax authorities, even if no tax is payable. Filing a Nil Return ensures compliance with tax regulations and helps in documenting your financial status for that particular financial year.

"It's preferable to file as IT returns also work as a document of history of a person's income and it can help in obtaining a loan," said Pritam Mahure, Partner with CA Pritam Mahure and Associates.

The new tax regime has been made applicable as a default regime from the Financial Year 2023-24 and the Assessment Year 2024-25. However, taxpayers can choose the tax regime (old or new) that they think is beneficial to them.

The Finance Ministry had clarified that the option for opting out from the new tax regime is available till filing of return for the AY 2024-25. Eligible persons without any business income will have the option to choose the regime for each financial year. So, they can choose the new tax regime in one financial year and the old tax regime in another.

To file your ITR, you typically need Form 16 (TDS certificate issued by your employer), details of other income sources (such as interest on FDs, rental income), and your PAN card. If your income is substantial, seeking the assistance of a tax professional can be beneficial to minimise errors and optimise tax planning. However, if you choose to file your own return, it's important to reconcile your income details from TDS forms (such as Form 26AS) and your bank statements to ensure accuracy.

"If your salary is running in millions then it is preferable that support of a tax professional is taken, as it could help in mitigating basic errors and optimising tax," said Mahure.

According to Manmeet Kaur, Partner at Karanjawala & Co, it is important to do the tax filing within deadlines given by authorities for individuals and register on the Income Tax e-filing portal, if not already done.

"Calculate your total income from all sources such as rental income, capital returns etc. Also, gather all necessary documents such as bank and credit card statements including investments and deductions under sections 80C, 80D, 80E, 80TTA, etc. Further, collect relevant TDS certificates (Form 16, Form 16A, and Form 26AS). You should have bank account details for refund processing, if any."

After taking into consideration all aspects, determine your tax liability and choose the appropriate ITR form and fill out the ITR form online or use tax filing software. One should double check the pre-filled details in the ITR form.

"After verifying the particulars mentioned in your return (via Aadhaar OTP, net banking, etc.) submit your ITR," Kaur added.

Further, for individual professionals having income more than ₹50,00,000 per annum, the audit is mandatory under the Act. The individual who is a professional falling under this category should have the audit done from a chartered accountant (CA) after considering all the above factors. Thereafter, the return can be filed with the auditor's report, she stated.

Belated return

For the Financial Year 2023-24 (Assessment Year 2024-25), the deadline to file Income Tax Returns (ITR) is July 31, 2024. In case of missing this deadline, individuals can still file a belated return before December 31, 2024. Late filing may result in an interest charge of 1% per month on the unpaid tax amount as per Section 234A.

Additionally, under Section 234F, a late fee of ₹5,000 is applicable, which is reduced to ₹1,000 if the total income is below ₹5 lakh.

Furthermore, individuals have the option to carry forward losses from sources like the stock market, mutual funds, properties, or businesses to offset against future income tax liabilities, provided the ITR is filed before the deadline.

TO-DO LIST FOR FILING ITRs

Deadline for filing ITR for **FY 24** is **JULY 31, 2024**

Filing a belated return is possible until **DEC 31, 2024** but may incur interest charges and late fees

To file your ITR, you need Form **16**, details of other income sources, PAN Card etc..

In case of no taxable income, it's better to file a Nil Return to get a loan etc..

Individuals should have bank account details for refund processing

For individual professionals having income more than **₹50 LAKH** per annum, audit is mandatory

> If your salary is running in millions then it is preferable that support of tax professional is taken
> Pritam Mahure, Partner with CA Pritam Mahure and Associates

MONEY MATTERS

HOW BULL MARKETS INDUCE RISKS

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

SHARE prices are driven by greed and fear. It is a fight between two powerful emotions. Investors and traders in India and abroad are tracking Indian equities more closely than ever. That is reflected in the rising participation of retail and foreign investors in Indian markets. The latest data from the National Stock Exchange shows that the market capitalization to gross domestic product ratio of the Indian stock markets was never so high. Indian shares are trading at a much higher value than the GDP at 125%. The number of unique investors on the NSE is at 9.5 crore. According to the latest monthly bulletin, the stock exchange also claims global dominance in the Equity Index Options segment, with a 98% global share in contracts traded in May 2024.

Benchmark indices like the Sensex and the NSE Nifty are at a record high. India's equity options are traded as if no other derivative instruments exist worldwide.

The sentiment about Indian equities is primarily driven by the long-term stability and growth that the Indian economy offers to investors.

While you feel good about the euphoria, there are many things to read, learn, and see, rather than just put your money into it. You do not need to dive deep or sign up for online courses. You can do that by monitoring public information. You need to know the right things to look out for before you do any transaction. Knowledge is often the best way to protect yourself against market risks. Understanding the risks could help you move to the next level regarding wealth creation.

Two significant risks were flagged in regulatory data published recently. One was related to derivatives markets, and another was related to the trend in mutual fund investments.

SOURAV ROY

After the latest board meeting, the Securities and Exchange Board of India announced that it could introduce restrictions on the derivatives markets, and the regulator could take some products off the market.

Nithin Kamath took to social media to highlight that the regulatory risk is the biggest for the stockbroking industry. He quoted data that said the index options segment had grown too fast, too soon. The share of retail investors in the segment is now over 40% from around 2% six years ago. He also admitted that many stockbrokers earned a high revenue through brokerage due to the surge in options trading. "The times will be tough for the broking industry going forward because almost everyone's business model is skewed towards earning from options," he said. That is terrible news for listed companies in the stockbroking segment that rely on derivatives-linked brokerage.

The Reserve Bank of India also published the latest financial stability report. It is an assessment of risks to the economy by the central bank in India. Overall, the risk flagged by the RBI is moderate across parameters like geopolitical risk, macroeconomic conditions, capital outflows and exchange rate risks. The data on the equity mutual fund industry is worth taking note of. The RBI report says more money flows into relatively risky sectoral and thematic funds than diversified equity funds.

The latest NSE monthly bulletin data shows that a third of equity mutual funds originate in Maharashtra. While there is a dramatic surge in direct equity investing registration through demat accounts across the country, the mutual fund industry remains skewed, with Maharashtra and Gujarat dominating the equity flows. Diving deeper into these numbers, one can see that only 11% of the ₹32 lakh crore equity assets under management are through passive funds that track a benchmark index. Most of the money flows into relatively risky, actively managed funds.

That shows individuals are willing to risk their savings through direct investing.

Sunil Singhania of Abakkus Asset Managers had a successful career as a fund manager with the then Reliance Capital Mutual Fund. He recently said that you should spend more time on research and less time allocating money in the bull market. You must engage a professional advisor to support your endeavour.

MONEY-WISE

DO YOU WANT TO REALLY LOCK IN YOUR MONEY?

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM

writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

THERE is a big lure of investing in asset classes which have a degree of being difficult to access, and exclusive club privileges. Whenever a person is approached by a good marketing team selling things like private equity, high end unit linked plans, PMS, AIF, they have adequate budgets to guile you into signing the cheque.

I met a man who wanted to invest ₹1 crore in a private equity fund raising. This fund was being run by a person with a lot of qualification and was raising money for 7 years –with a clause saying it could be delayed by say 3 years. So this money was going to be locked in for 7 to 10 years.

His net-worth was ₹4 crore and he already had ₹50 lakh in a PMS(Portfolio Management Service). I asked him to find out the status of that investment. He was gung ho about it. However, what he heard was bad news. The fund was stuck and he would be lucky to get 70% of the money over the next 3 years. So it was a case of 7 years –with negative returns. When your NW is ₹4 crore –and you are still building a nest egg does it make sense to lock up (and eventually lose) 15% of your portfolio?

NO. It makes no sense at all. Who are the people who should invest in schemes where money can be locked in for a decade...

- High net worth individuals – those who have at least ₹10 crore, have met all their goals have enough money for retirement.
- Invest not more than 10% of your net-worth IN ALL SUCH ILLIQUID SCHEMES like unit-linked plans, PMS, AIF, Private equity, small cap funds, credit risk funds...all put together.
- The money you put in has to be money that you can afford to lose.
- You should know the fund manager either directly or through your friends

Who are the people who should NOT put money into such schemes:

- Those with a net-worth of about ₹5 crore or less
- Those who can't afford to lose ₹50 lakh–emotionally and physically.
- Those who have immediate goals and need a standby fund just in case something goes wrong with the normal markets.

I am not against private equity, PMS or AIF – I am myself an investor in some of these products. I am just saying who should invest and who should not. I recently saw an investor lose a lot of money in a real estate PMS. The persons who sell these products invite you to a nice 5-star property along with your family. They start by saying that 'SIP in mutual funds is for the lower end people, not for people like you who are HNIs'. This floors the investor and his family and they are also now convinced that since they have ₹ 80 lakh lying in their bank account. Now it becomes easy to issue a cheque of ₹50 lakh.

The question is not 'whether you can afford to sign the cheque...it is whether you should..'

The answer is very simple – you shouldn't.

LIC chairman Siddhartha Mohanty redesignated as MD & chief executive

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

STATE-owned life insurer Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has redesignated its chairman Siddhartha Mohanty as chief executive officer and managing director with effect from 30 June 2024, the insurer informed the exchanges on Sunday.

It is not yet known if the life insurance company would appoint a new chairperson. The capital market regulator wants large listed companies to have separate chairperson and CEO to ensure better corporate governance.

The market regulator wants the chairperson, who heads the board of a company, to be a non-executive position so as to ensure independence of the board. In 2018, the Sebi had amended the Sebi (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 mandating the top 500 listed companies to ensure the chairperson to be a non-executive director and not be related to the Managing Director or the CEO. However, in 2022 it climbed down from its earlier diktat, and made it optional for the top listed 500 companies to split the positions of Chairman and CEO.

The Companies Act, 2013 also provides for the split of chairperson and CEO's position. However, a company can depart from the provision, if permitted by the company's articles of association.

It is to be noted that LIC, which got listed on stock exchanges in May 2022 at a price of ₹947 per equity share, has been exempted from several provisions Sebi (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. LIC was incorporated under a LIC Act and not under Companies Act, 1956.

HDFC Life CEO: Not keen on composite insurance licence

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @Mumbai

HDFC Life is not very keen on seeking a composite insurance licence, the amendment bill for which is pending for the approval from the federal lawmakers, but will definitely reenter the health insurance segment when permitted, a top official of the leading life insurer has said.

It can be noted that till 2016, life insurers were into the health segment, which has of late became the biggest contributor to the top-line of general insurers since the past two years, overtaking the till then mainstay of motor. Almost all life insurers who had health products still continue to serve existing clients but can't launch new products or hawk existing products to new customers.

"We aren't very keen on seeking a composite insurance licence. As a group also, we are comfortable at the segments we are already in. I don't see a merger of all our insurance businesses, if and when a composite licence is in," Vibha Padalkar, chief executive of HDFC Life, told TNIE. She further said globally, too, composite licence is not the prevalent practice except in some small Southeast Asian markets. "Yes we are very keen to re-enter the health cover segment but we will not enter the indemnity segment," she stressed.Early June, industry leader Life Insurance Corporation had said it was planning to enter the health segment through a private health insurer by acquiring one of the five private standalone health insurers. Earlier, chairman Siddhartha Mohanty too had said the corporation was exploring "inorganic" options for the company's new initiative in the health space.

Explaining her views on reentering the lucrative health segment, Padalkar said, she will not offer indemnity products even when it reenters the health segment.

An indemnity insurance policy compensates the insured for certain unexpected damages or losses up to a certain limit, usually the amount of the loss itself. Such policies are designed to protect professionals and business-owners when they are found to be at fault for a specific event such as misjudgment or malpractice. "We'll be looking at certain composite products that can be hawked as a one-in-all-product offering life, protection and local and overseas health covers etc.," she said.

'Goods, services exports to cross $800 billion in FY25'

PTI @Mumbai

HEALTHY increase in the country's exports, improvement in the current account deficit (CAD) and focus on expanding manufacturing will help the Indian economy register a healthy growth rate, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said. He was in Mumbai to participate in a programme of the gems and jewellery industry.

The minister expressed confidence that the country's goods and services exports would cross $800 billion this fiscal. It was $778 billion in 2023-24 and $776 billion in 2022-23. Goyal said that the mood amongst industry and exporters is "wonderful" and a "very great" sense of confidence is there among the investors about the India growth story.

"I think this year we will end with over $800 billion exports... We also focus a lot on expanding our manufacturing capacities, so that our import dependencies can come down and CAD is also showing healthy improvement in the last few months. "We are very confident that the Indian economy is poised for both healthy and organised growth and providing opportunities to lakhs of people across India," the minister said.

S&P Global Ratings has retained India's GDP growth forecast for the current financial year at 6.8% and said high interest rates and lower fiscal spur would temper demand.

While another rating agency Fitch estimates India's growth at 7.2% in FY'25, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) estimates India's GDP to grow at 7%. Moody's Ratings and Deloitte India estimates India's GDP to grow at 6.6% in 2024-25 fiscal, while Morgan Stanley projects growth rate of 6.8%.

BCCI announces ₹125 cr reward for India men

BCCI secretary Jay Shah has announced a cash reward of ₹125 crores for the Indian team that won the T20 World Cup. "The team has showcased exceptional talent, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. Congratulations to all the players, coaches, and support staff for this outstanding achievement!," Shah wrote on social media.

GOOD TO BE KINGS

The T20 World Cup title could be just the beginning of a sustainable long term excellence

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@Chennai

RAHUL Dravid roared like a proud father. Rohit Sharma slapped the field with his hands before eating grass off the pitch. Sharma kissed Hardik Pandya on the cheek. Jasprit Bumrah hugged Sanjana Ganesan, presenter and wife, after an interview.

Adults bawling on live TV. Adults doing things you thought weren't capable of doing a few months ago. Adults losing all sense of professional etiquette. Elite sport doesn't come with a satisfaction guarantee.

In a commencement speech at Dartmouth College recently, Roger Federer gave a new perspective on his career. "In the 1526 singles matches I played in my career," he had said, "I won almost 80%. What percentage of points do you think I won? Only 54%... when you lose every second point, on average, you learn not to dwell on every shot." Even the greatest athletes go through more heartbreaks than triumphs. They rarely get to manage their exits. But when it clicks, like it did at the Kensington Oval on Saturday, the deliverance is off the charts. Soon after the Indian players converged, the heavens opened up to drench them. The rain wasn't spoiling their parade. It was joining in on the fun.

*** *** ***

Off late, Indian cricket had not been in a good place. The culture wars between fans of certain players. The social media abuse copped by Mohammed Siraj, Mohammed Shami and Arshdeep Singh after losses; they being from the minority communities only made it look ugly. The treatment reserved for Hardik Pandya at the start of this year's Indian Premier League (IPL) – he was booed in almost all matches. And, of course, the men's team's long-standing incapacity to get over the finish line in a global final.

(Clockwise) Rishabh Pant (C) & Kuldeep Yadav; Fans celebrate India's T20 WC win in Hyderabad; Rohit Sharma with his daughter; an emotional Virat Kohli | AP/AFP

Sure, no team is entitled to win trophies. They have to be earned. The counter to that, within the context of world cricket, is quite simple. How long a drought is acceptable when you have so many advantages — finances, skillsets and manpower — over a lot of the others (it's widely acknowledged India get to play God while some other boards need an Indian cricket tour to either stay in the black or attempt to break even)? One, two, three... 11? For a team which commands $4 out of every $10 the International Cricket Council (ICC) makes, finishing second, as harsh as it sounds, is the bare minimum. Sometimes, it may not even be good enough.

It's why Saturday's final could well be a sliding-door movement for Indian cricket. The Class of 2024 have shown what it takes to win. Now, the next challenge is to create a dynasty worthy of the house they are living in. There are two ICC men's trophies in the longer formats up for grabs within the next year. Win them both (both Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma are likely to figure prominently in those sides) and they will become the first side in the game's modern history to do a three-peat over different formats.

*** *** ***

Deep inside the bowels of The Oval, Sharma had caught a sorry figure. It was at the end of a disappointing final of the World Test Championship in 2023.

The captain had changed but the disappointment of losing a big global final remained. The cycle repeated itself at the next event. In elite sport, there are three kinds of teams. Regressing to the mean. Staying still. Moving forward. After staying still, this victory is baby steps towards sustainable long term excellence where excellence is directly proportional to the number of titles.

*** *** ***

After India's ramshackle 2021 T20 World Cup, a significant churn was being prophesied. Too slow. Too rigid. Too old fashioned. Too set in their ways. Too comfortable...Some of those accusations were perhaps true at some level.

But what Rohit, Kohli & Co. have done after that semifinal losss in 2022 deserves recognition. That will be a shared legacy Rohit will share with 14 other men. They bought into Rohit's ideals and executed it. He now hands over the gauntlet with a new culture set in stone.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Dravid never played for trophies: Childhood friend Khaleel

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

"INDIRANAGAR ka gunda" advertisement, which introduced the ever-reticent Rahul Dravid in a new avatar, became an instant hit a few years ago. Not known to let out his emotions, the former India captain wielding the willow, shouting in anger through the sunroof of his car, though for an advert, was a rare sight to see.

A sight somewhat similar to that was visible on Saturday. Dravid was filled with unbridled joy and the only difference this time was it was not an act. Pure emotions were on display at the Kensington Oval, Barbados on the day after India confirmed their win over South Africa. He pumped his fists and then let out a big roar while holding the trophy aloft. As Dravid continued his celebrations, players around him watched in amusement and so did everyone including his close friend and former Karnataka player, Fazal Khaleel. "He is just a very controlled person, not like he is an introvert or an extrovert. Yesterday (Saturday), you know, the actual emotions of a human being came out, may not be Rahul Dravid. It was an emotion of the moment and everything. The last time I saw him with that kind of emotion was when Karnataka won the Ranji Trophy in 1995-96 in Chennai," Khaleel, a former right-hand batter and chairman of selectors with Karnataka Cricket Board, told this daily.

In his long illustrious playing career, the ICC title eluded Dravid and he admitted the same after India's title triumph. "As a player, I was not lucky enough to win a trophy but I tried my best, it was not to be. I was lucky this bunch of players made it possible for me," he said. Being with him since his childhood, Khaleel, however, said Dravid never played for trophies. "I don't think he played for trophies and statistics and that kind of glory. For him, representing the country was the important thing, doing well for the country was important and winning a World Cup was the byproduct of all that."

In his own words, Dravid wanted people to remember him for what he has given back to the game. "I remember him saying very clearly to me when we were very young that 'I want to be known not only as a Test cricketer who has played for India but as one of the greatest who has played for the country', that was the goal. He wants people to remember him for what he has contributed to Indian cricket not what he got from the sport. Not everyone gets a chance to play in the WC first of all. Very few people get the opportunity and some are fortunate to be in that team and part of the victory. I think he deserves it at the twilight of his coaching career," Khaleel said.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

PROGRESS REPORT under Rohit & Dravid

With the tenure of the captain & coach combo coming to an end, a look at the areas Indian cricket progressed...

CLARITY AND CONSISTENCY

From the time Dravid and Rohit took charge, the first thing they ensured was consistency in selections across format. Whether it was the Test specialists or the comeback of Kuldeep Yadav, there was a clear path on what was expected of the players.

GROOMING THE NEXT GEN

One of the key responsibility of Dravid was to oversee the transition. While the white-ball phase came later, red-ball began sooner, white-ball took its time. In the longer format, the rise of Yashasvi Jaiswal and revival of Shubman Gill at No 3 are some of the few examples.

HORSES FOR COURISES

For the better part of the past decade, one thing that affected India was mixing formats and being conservative in the shortest one. It all changed under Rohit and Dravid. They couldn't execute it in 2022 T20 and 2023 ODI WC to go all the way, but ensured that didn't happen in West Indies. This trophy is a testament to the path Rohit and Dravid have laid down for the team.

THREE ICC FINALS

Across formats, whether at familiar conditions or away, India were able to make it to the finals of three consecutive tournaments under this leadership. With gruelling schedule of international cricket, to remain consistent in all three formats while rotating players is not easy. What made this consistency even more impressive was the fact that there was not just one template followed for the success even though multiple players played in all three formats.

TIMELINE OF TENURE

- **Nov '21:** Dravid named head coach
- **Jan '22:** Test series loss in SA
- **Sep '22:** Super Four exit in Asia Cup T20
- **Oct '22:** Semifinal exit in T20 WC
- **Mar '23:** Test series win vs Aus
- **June '23:** WTC final loss
- **Sep '23:** ODI Asia Cup win
- **Nov '23:** ODI WC finalist
- **Mar'24:** Test series win vs Eng
- **June '24:** T20 WC win

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri and IOA chief PT Usha with athletes | PTI

IOA launches India's kit for Paris Olympics

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

IOA president PT Usha announced a few firsts in the presence of sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Union petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri during the kit launch and send off ceremony of the Indian contingent for the Paris Olympics.

Usha said: "Firstly, we are establishing a full-fledged medical recovery centre at the Games Village, ensuring our athletes have the best facilities for their physical, mental well-being and sleep... Another first is our approach of athletes for athletes where our contingent team will include former Olympians who bring invaluable experience and support."

She also spoke about a dedicated microsite, created by partners, Yes Bank, where well-wishers can send their messages of support to the athletes. The IOA with the help of KPMG has developed an app that will serve as a comprehensive guide and information resource for Team India members. "Finally, we are setting up a "home away from home"; in Paris with the support of our partners, Reliance, ensuring our athletes feel at home even while they are miles away," Usha said, before adding, "we have no doubt that you will make us proud in Paris. The entire nation stands behind you."

Sindhu banking on 'smart' work

ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

PV SINDHU needs no introduction. Her unwavering determination and her love for badminton has seen her scale many uncharted territories over the years. However, her returns have been modest in the last seven months or so with injuries being the main reason behind that decline. But as she aims for her third medal at Olympics, she seems optimistic as ever.

Admitting that it has been challenging, the 2019 world champ said she has learnt to be more patient and keep up the fight from recent struggles. "It has been a challenging (Olympic cycle). I had to rest for a couple of months and get back on court. But I have learnt a lot from those experiences, being patient and believing in myself. To keep fighting every single day," Sindhu said in a media interaction facilitated by the Sports Authority of India, Indian Olympic Association and the Badminton Association of India.

₹2.76 cr
The total expenditure on Sindhu for current Olympic cycle is over Rs 2.76 crore (Under TOPS & ACTC funding)

Sindhu has faced many shuttlers from different backgrounds with varied styles of play over the years. It's a must for shuttlers to constantly update themselves based on who's in front of them. "The competition is high so it is not going to be easy (Olympics). This is my third Olympics but every time the game keeps changing and some of them are new players while some of them will be taking part for the second time. One has to be physically and mentally much more stronger/smarter. These are the things that we need to keep in mind," the 28-year-old, who is currently training in Saarbrucken (Germany), said.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

Mixed 4x400m relay team fails to make Oly cut

PANCHKULA: The Indian mixed 4x400m relay team failed in its bid to qualify for the Paris Olympics despite setting a national record as it missed the target time exactly by a second on the final day of the National Inter-State Championships on Sunday. The Indian team's target was to clock 3:11.87 to go past Kenya (3:11.88) and take the 16th and the last spot. But the India A clocked 3:12.87 to win the race.

Wrestler Anshu suffers shoulder strain in training

NEW DELHI: Anshu Malik, who is a strong medal contender at the Paris Olympics, has suffered a shoulder strain during training, forcing the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) to seek a status report from the wrestler. Anshu had won a silver medal at the recent Ranking Series event in Budapest in the women's 57kg, losing the final to China's Kexin Hong.

Euros: Bellingham and Kane rescue England

AGENCIES @Gelsenkirchen

ENGLAND escaped an embarrassing last 16 exit at Euro 2024 thanks to Jude Bellingham's overhead kick before Harry Kane struck in extra-time for a 2-1 win over Slovakia on Sunday. The Three Lions have been hyped as one of the favourites to end a 58-year wait for major tournament glory but looked set to go out with a whimper to Ivan Schranz's 25th minute goal. However, Bellingham's moment of inspiration five minutes into six added on in stoppage time breathed new life into Gareth Southgate's reign as England boss.

Kane then headed in just a minute into extra-time to set up a quarter-final meeting with Switzerland on Saturday.

Meanwhile, a Kai Havertz penalty and a Jamal Musiala strike gave Germany a 2-0 win over Denmark as the host nation reached the quarterfinals after a dramatic game that was delayed by almost half an hour in the first half due to a violent storm. **Result:** Friday: Germany 2-0 Denmark; ngland 2-1 Slovakia aet

England's Jude Bellingham (L), celebrates with Harry Kane after scoring against Slovakia on Saturday | AP

TODAY'S MATCHES

Belgium have a chance for revenge when they face neighbours France in the last 16, a showdown between two big-hitters who have played well below expectations so far.

France vs Belgium | 9:30 pm
Portugal vs Slovenia | 12:30 am (IST Tuesday)
LIVE ON SONY SPORTS NETWORK

WIMBLEDON

Major quest: Djokovic battles to save legacy

AGENCIES @London

NOVAK DJOKOVIC is poised to mount a one-man battle to preserve the legacy of Wimbledon's golden generation in the face of an increasingly successful new wave spearheaded by Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner.

However, the odds will be stacked against the seven-time champion and the holder of 24 Grand Slam titles when the tournament gets underway on Monday. Arriving in London having recently undergone knee surgery, the 37-year-old Serb, runner-up to Alcaraz last year, has seen his Grand Slam powers eroded in 2024. He was succeeded as Australian Open champion by Sinner with the Italian also taking his world number one ranking.

SELECT MATCHES (MONDAY): Men's singles: A Bolt (AUS) vs C Ruud (NOR x8) (3:30 pm); A Kovacevic (USA) vs D Medvedev (RUS x5) (5:30 pm); C Alcaraz (ESP x3) vs M Lajal (EST) (6 pm); S Nagal (IND) vs M Kecmanovic (SRB) (8 pm); J Sinner (ITA x 1) vs Y Hanfmann (GER). **Women's singles:** M Kessler (USA) vs M Sakkari (GRE X9) (3:30 pm); J Paolini (ITA x7) vs S Sorribes (ESP) 5:30 pm; E Bektas (USA) vs A Sabalenka (RUS x3) (7:30 pm); C Dolehide (USA) vs C Gauff (USA x2) (9:15pm). **Live on Star Sports Network (Timings specified are estimated)**

No Messi, no problem as Argentina down Peru

AGENCIES @Miami

ARGENTINA shrugged off the injury absence of Lionel Messi to maintain their perfect start at the Copa America on Saturday with a 2-0 victory over Peru in Miami. Lautaro Martinez scored twice at the Hard Rock Stadium to seal a win that ensured Argentina advance to the quarterfinals as Group A winners.

With Messi sidelined after complaining of a sore right hamstring, and coach Lionel Scaloni serving a one-game suspension, Argentina made nine changes to their starting XI at the Hard Rock Stadium. But despite the makeshift-looking line-up, Argentina were always in control against a disappointing Peru side who managed just one shot on goal during a one-sided encounter.

Martinez's first goal came just after half-time. A sublime through ball from Angel Di Maria released the Inter Milan forward, who calmly lifted a deft finish over advancing Peru goalkeeper Pedro Gallese. Martinez grabbed a second in the 86th minute, latching on to a long pass forward before finishing past Gallese. Argentina will now face the runner-up from Group B in the quarterfinals in Houston next Thursday, most likely either Ecuador or Mexico.

RESULTS: Argentina 2-0 Peru; Canada 0-0 Chile.

Argentina's Lautaro Martinez scored twice versus Peru | AFP

117 overs: Written and directed by Sune Luus

KALYANI MANGALE @Chennai

THE year was 2010. After the massive success of Slumdog Millionaire, the film that won him the Academy Award for Best Director, Danny Boyle released a survival drama 127 Hours in Telluride Film Festival in September to rave reviews. Based on the true story of mountaineer Aron Ralston, who was unfortunately trapped in the narrow canyon for 127 hours till his eventual rescue.

In 2010, Sune Luus had not even made her debut for the South African national side, but when it came to surviving in the trapped conditions for almost 117 overs in the one-off Test against India in Chennai, Luus did exactly that with a splendid century as South Africa finished the day with 232/2 after being asked to follow on. One needs to understand how much of a herculean effort it was from the former South African captain. For starters, the last time South Africa donned the whites was six months ago against Australia in February 2024, Luus had played all of 69 balls in both innings combined. A loss by an innings and 284 runs was always going to be difficult to digest. What followed was an even harder series against Sri Lanka at home where the right-hander could not play her role. In the ODI series against India, well, she became the first victim of India's vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, who had never bowled in the format before. "I think it's been a bit of a journey with Sune," South Africa's batting coach Baakier Abrahams told media after the third day's play at Chepauk. "I did the ODI series as a consultant against Sri Lanka. She didn't have the best series that she personally wanted and she was really hurt at that stage. So she was able to take a couple of weeks off from the game and just reflect. And she came up with some strong information around what is her driving force," he added.

SA's Sune Luus (R) celebrates her ton with Laura Wolvaardt | PRAVIKUMAR

Brief scores: India 603/6d vs SA 266 & 232/2 (F/o) in 85 ovs (Sune 109, Laura 93 batting).

Full story: newindianexpress.com

SMALL TOWNS TO GLOBAL CAMPUSES

STUDYING ABROAD

Recent data suggests that a majority of students moving abroad for higher education are from smaller cities and towns of India. What led to this change? **Saumyangi Yadav** listens in to what students and experts say

A FUTURE abroad might have been a far-away dream for students from Tier II and III cities of India a few years back but data shows that in the recent past, the prospect of studying abroad has changed from a distant aspiration to a tangible reality for students from small cities and towns. Earlier, what was considered an opportunity reserved for students from metro cities and large urban spaces, has now reached students in all corners of India. Increasing incomes, awareness about foreign universities, financial aid options and tailored support from study abroad consultants and agencies has led to this change in trend.

Experts suggest that students from Tier II and III cities make up for the majority of India's increasing demand for overseas education. Students from cities like Roorkee, Dehradun, Kanpur, Lucknow, Kota, Surat, and so on are coming forward with their aspirations for a foreign education. Behind this significant change are a number of socio-economic factors. Let us dive into a few major reasons that have led to this surge in the number of study abroad aspirants from non-metro cities.

Increased awareness

It is beyond question that the internet and digitalisation has made information much more accessible than one could have imagined a few decades ago. With social media, students are able to connect to the world and better understand what opportunities await on the other side of the globe.

AGS Ilaya Bharathi, Managing Director and Chairman, GoStudy, a study abroad consultancy platform, explained, "Studying abroad used to be a dream for many from our previous generations. Only a privileged few were lucky enough to achieve it. But after the social media boom, they now see all this information and vlogs shared by other Indian students who went there, they listen to their experiences and understand that they can do it too. It is not intimidating anymore." Students believe that awareness about educational opportunities and programmes available in foreign countries play a significant role in the changing scenario.

Ashmeet Singh, a student at Coventry University in the United Kingdom (UK), who hails from a small city called Bundi, near Kota, Rajasthan, said, "These days, everyone wants to experience global education. Students want to move to foreign countries for a better life, opportunities, better climate and better environment. As for me, ever since my childhood, the UK has been a dream destination for me. The infrastructure, their historical landmarks, everything has been fascinating for me."

> *The documentation process became a lot easier. I doubted if I would get my offer letter and visa, but the consultants helped me through it all*
>
> — Sudeep Rautela from Dehradun who is now studying in Australia

"What I have noticed is that if parents are educated and well informed about the opportunities abroad, it changes students' prospects in a big way. That is something that students in metro cities have an upper hand in," Ashmeet added.

Changing cities

fly away

Increasing interest in education abroad has inevitably led to an increased number of study abroad consultants and agencies catering specifically to smaller cities. These agencies provide tailored support and guidance to aspiring students. "The number of study abroad consultancies in Tier II and III cities are growing, but these are small players who are able to provide top class service as they do not handle a large volume of students like the metro offices. But at the same time, the big players also get student leads from these small cities and towns. Today, students are also open to virtual counselling sessions through phone calls, WhatsApp or even video calls," said the GoStudy chairman.

Apart from this, other facilities like coaching institutes for English proficiency tests, exam centres, university fairs, have also become more common in Tier II and III cities. Gaurav Batra, Founder and CEO of Infinite Group, also expressed, "If we talk about a few years ago, all university representatives who used to travel for education fairs and promotion were limited to Tier I cities majorly and a few Tier II cities. Very few students from Tier III cities were able to travel to attend these events. Because of digitalisation, many things have changed. Earlier, people used to approach travel agents to book tickets, but now you can do the same sitting at your home."

GAURAV BATRA, Founder and CEO, Infinite Group

AGS ILAYA BHARATHI, Managing Director and Chairman, GoStudy

Comparable cost of education

Another factor that might have led to an increase in the number of students moving abroad is the increasing cost of education in India. Apart from a few government-run universities that have low acceptance rates, most higher educational institutes charge high tuition fees, experts pointed out. "If you compare the cost of higher education in India for a student from a Tier III city, it is still very high. For example, in a city like Delhi, pursuing an MBA would cost around ₹14-15 lakh on an average and on the other hand, with a similar budget, students can move abroad. Now, students are realising that by investing the same amount of money, they can avail better opportunities and facilities. They get to experience the world, have bigger job prospects and other benefits," said Gaurav Batra.

Experts added that unconventional and non-English speaking study abroad destinations like Europe are becoming popular among the students in these small towns as they offer programmes at lower cost as compared to popular destinations like US, UK and Canada and also have comparatively low cost of living.

Greater support

One of the most intimidating parts of moving abroad for higher education is financing and documentation. However, with increasing support and access to financial aid, the process has become much easier for the students.

Infinite Group's Gaurav Batra explained that while the process of getting a student loan from a bank has stayed more or less the same, a number of Nonbank Financial Companies (NBFCs) have come into the picture now.

"NBFCs are highly accessible to students, whether they are from Tier I or III cities. This has made their lives a little easier. Other than this, many companies that help students get loans as a facilitator, are available so students do not have to struggle. With this, affordability has come into the picture," he explained. The process of getting a student visa and other necessary steps have also become easier for students, especially those who come from smaller cities with less-informed family backgrounds.

WHAT IS A STUDENT VISA?

A student visa is an endorsement by the immigration authorities on a student's passport, allowing them to enter and study in the issuing country for a specific period.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A STUDENT VISA

Where to apply: Consulates or embassies of the destination country, or online through their official visa application websites.

Type of visas to apply for: This varies by country. For example, the USA offers F, M, and J visas; the UK offers Tier 4 visas; Canada offers study permits; and Australia offers student subclass 500 visas.

When to apply: Typically, 3-6 months before the start of the academic programme.

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Acceptance by an educational institution
- Valid passport
- Sufficient financial resources
- Language proficiency test scores (eg, IELTS, TOEFL).
- Medical and police clearance certificates

VISA INTERVIEW

A formal interview with a consular officer to assess the genuineness of the applicant's intentions to study and return after completing their studies.

CAN YOUR VISA GET REJECTED?

Visa is often rejected and common reasons for that include:

- Insufficient financial proof
- Lack of proper documentation
- Failure to prove intent to return after studies
- Poor academic performance
- Misrepresentation or fraud

STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES

EXPLORE EDUCATION OVERSEAS

WITH India's mission to globalise the education sector, student exchange programmes have become more and more common. These programmes offer students a chance to explore global opportunities and also add cultural value to their academic life.

Here is a list of popular exchange programmes available for Indian students

Semester at sea: This is a foreign exchange programme, wherein, students visit multiple countries and study when they are onboard a ship. Indian students can enroll to explore various countries and also practise interdisciplinary coursework.

Rotary Youth Exchange: This is a student exchange programme for Indian students between the ages of 15 and 19. Students live with a host family in another country and study at a local school in that country to understand different cultures and broaden their horizons.

Erasmus+: Erasmus+ is the European Union's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe which aims at promoting intercultural dialogue among individuals.

Fulbright Nehru Exchange programme: Indian students with an undergraduate degree from a recognised institution, that is equivalent to a US bachelor's degree such as a four-year bachelor's degree; or a completed master's degree, or a full-time postgraduate diploma, can avail this exchange fellowship.

Youth for Understanding: YFU offers youth semester and year exchange programmes to those with an internship opportunity in over 60+ countries. It fosters global understanding, mutual respect, & social responsibility.

RISING WAVE OF INDIAN STUDENTS

A guide to navigating scholarships

Scholarships are an important step in your journey to foreign education and can help take off some of the financial burden. While it might seem daunting at first, with comprehensive research and information, you can also score a scholarship. Here are a few tips from experts for students who are applying for scholarships.

1. **LOOK BEYOND UNIVERSITY WEBSITE:** One common mistake that students make while searching for prospective scholarships is overlooking external scholarships. There are several external scholarship options – both government and private – that you should look for when you start planning your education abroad.
2. **APPLY EARLY, PLAN WELL:** Begin your scholarship search at least a year before you plan to begin your studies abroad. Many scholarships have early deadlines. It will also give you more time to research all the options available.
3. **DO NOT WAIT FOR AN OFFER LETTER:** Remember that many scholarships do not require you to have an admission letter in hand while applying. So instead of waiting for a confirmation from your dream foreign university, it is advisable to start your financing process early.
4. **DO NOT LIMIT TO JUST ONE OPTION:** Unless you get a full scholarship, there is no limit to the number of scholarships one can receive. So do not stick to just one partial scholarship, keep your options open for more!
5. **KEEP AN OPEN MIND:** Most students find scholarships daunting because of a common mindset that only highly meritorious students can avail financial aid for studying abroad. But in reality, apart from merit-based and need-based scholarships, there are a number of special scholarships for sports, extra-curriculars and more. Make sure you know what is best for you.

ABROAD CALLING FOR EDUCATION? PICK 'N' CHOOSE

THE United States of America (USA), the United Kingdom (UK), Canada and Australia are collectively known as the 'Big 4' as they are the four most popular and prestigious destinations for Indian students seeking higher education abroad.

These countries have renowned varsities, a diverse range of courses, and favourable post-study opportunities. They attract the highest number of international students, including a significant proportion from India, making them top choices for study abroad aspirants.

USA

- **Top universities:** Harvard, MIT, Stanford, University of California, Columbia, Brown, Yale
- **Popular courses:** Engineering, Computer Science, Business Management, Healthcare, Social Sciences
- **Pros:** Diverse educational opportunities, cutting-edge research facilities, robust alumni networks
- **Cons:** High tuition fees, cost of living, rigorous visa process, racism

UK

- **Top universities:** University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, Imperial College London, London School of Economics
- **Popular Courses:** Law, Engineering, Business Administration, Social Sciences, Medicine
- **Pros:** High academic standards, shorter course duration, cultural diversity
- **Cons:** Expensive tuition and living costs, competitive admission process

Canada

- **Top universities:** University of Toronto, University of British Columbia, McGill University, University of Waterloo
- **Popular courses:** Engineering, Information Technology, Business Management,
- **Pros:** Affordable education, multicultural environment, high quality of life
- **Cons:** Harsh weather conditions in a few regions, long processing times for visas, mandatory minimum IELTS score of 6.0

Australia

- **Top universities:** Australian National University, University of Melbourne, University of Sydney, University of Queensland
- **Popular Courses:** Engineering, Information Technology, Business, Environmental Science
- **Pros:** High standard of education, diverse student community, opportunities for post-study work
- **Cons:** High tuition fees, cost of living in major cities, distance from home, mandatory minimum IELTS score of 6.0

ADDITIONAL PROMINENT DESTINATIONS

Ireland

- **Top universities:** Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin
- **Popular courses:** Data Science, Pharmaceuticals, Business, Engineering
- Pros: Post-study visa options, English-speaking country, growing tech industry

France

- **Top universities:** Sorbonne University, École Polytechnique, HEC Paris
- **Popular courses:** Fashion, Business, Engineering, Art and Design
- **Pros:** Cultural experience, affordable tuition fees, five-year Schengen circulation visa for Indian alumni

Italy

- **Top Universities:** University of Bologna, Sapienza University of Rome, Politecnico di Milano
- **Popular Courses:** Architecture, Arts, Design, Engineering
- **Pros:** Historical and cultural richness, affordable education, one-year temporary residence post-study for professional experience

Germany

- **Top universities:** Technical University of Munich, Heidelberg University, Humboldt University of Berlin, University of Freiburg
- **Popular courses:** Mechanical Engineering, Automotive Engineering, Renewable Energy, Computer Science
- **Pros:** Free tuition at public universities in a few states, strong industrial ties, vibrant cultural scene

— Compiled by Mrittika Banerjee and Saumyangi Yadav

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MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Walkman introduced

On this day in 1979, Sony introduced the Walkman TPS- L2, the first-ever portable cassette player with stereophonic earphones

MARKETING

Young people were the target audience for the Walkman, which was marketed as a constant companion. The product sales were steered through celebrity endorsements

LEGAL DISPUTE

The credit for the idea of the Walkman was given back to Andreas Pavel after a lengthy legal battle in 2003 which involved a huge settlement

LEGACY

The heyday of the Walkman might be long over, but it sparked the phenomenon that still endures: listening to music on the go

Packed with love

PG 3

POOJA DAS

TEXTBOOKS often serve as the first window into the world beyond the classroom, shaping young minds with stories of history, culture, and contemporary figures. But, in recent years, textbooks have also become a point of contestation and censure whether it be history, politics or social moralities. The uproar at Sindhi High School over the inclusion of actor **Tamannaah Bhatia** – who, incidentally, was in Bengaluru recently – in a Class 7 textbook has sparked a debate that extends beyond the pages. Reportedly, while parents raised concerns about her presence, pointing to the nature of her filmography, similar objections have not been raised for male contemporaries like actor **Ranveer Singh**, who is also part of the chapter. Titled *Life after Partition: Migration, Community and Strife in Sindh, 1947 to 1962,* the chapter is intended to provide insights into the history of the Sindhi community.

CHANGING SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT

The recent controversy at a private school revolving around the inclusion of actor Tamannaah Bhatia in a Class 7 textbook has opened up a conversation on the role of celebrities in educational content, the gender biases against women stars and more

'Should be careful while including mid-career celebs'

Whatever curriculum the school has subscribed to, they have to make sure we have personalities – regardless of the field – who have significant contributions to the society through their respective fields. If it's a veteran actor with decades of service, then it makes sense. But textbook committees have to be careful about including personalities who are still in the middle of their careers. Schools should refrain from including their own curriculum and if NCERT hasn't approved it, then they should offer an explanation.

Mansoor Ali Khan, Member, Board of Management, Delhi Public School, Bangalore & Mysore

'Don't understand Tamannaah Bhatia's contribution'

Neither the school nor parents are well-equipped to cater to Gen-Z today. They are already exposed to many unwanted things online, so where is the scope for teachers and parents to teach about morality? So, textbooks play an important role. The school has erred in including someone whom one cannot call a role model. I don't understand what Tamannaah [Bhatia] has contributed when it comes to philanthropy or anything else. Compared to that Ranveer Singh still showcases someone who has dared to dream big and make a mark for himself. But then again, why pick people from the entertainment industry? There are so many personalities from business and other fields who could have been included.

B Gayethri Devi, Principal, Little Flower Public School

'What elicits this kind of censure?'

Not having an issue with a male actor but having an issue with Tamannaah Bhatia is part of a larger bias that exists in our society. It's not like she has starred in very vulgar films; she has acted in popular films like *Baahubali*. So what elicits this kind of censure is something we need to think about. Not just one community but Indian society at large is still conservative about our attitudes towards women doing the same things as men. Also, I can't really stop my daughter from searching for something on the internet. They are anyway going to do it. But having said that, textbook committees should be careful while creating the content and try to not make it political, controversial or hateful. Sometimes these committees are very biased and irresponsible. That needs to change as well.

KM Chaitanya, filmmaker

No room for entertainment

Incorporating any prominent actor into the curriculum should not be entertained. It should have people and topics relevant to the culture and history of the subject. Unless they have done something significant towards the society and community, they should not be in the syllabus. The mere reason that an actor belongs to a particular community should not be enough of a reason.

Cinta Augustin, student

'CBSE equipped to determine if text is appropriate'

When such controversies come out, we often forget that a celebrity is a factor of fame and does not signify anything else unless we have context. I believe that the CBSE board will be adequately equipped to understand and conclude whether such text is appropriate for children.

Meghana Belawadi, actor

'We have filed a complaint'

This objection is with respect to what the actor is adding to when it comes to values of young minds. Tamannaah Bhatia could be a great actor, but their social media content is inappropriate for students. It's fine if Sindhi School wants to promote the stalwarts of their community, but they also have to ensure they can be appropriate role models. We have filed a complaint to the CBSE because it's not an NCERT-recommended curriculum.

D Shashi Kumar, GenSec, The Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka

NOW SCREENING... J-DRAMAS

With only a few days for the Japanese Film Festival Online 2024 to conclude, viewers still have a chance to catch acclaimed TV dramas

A still from *Baby Assasins*

EXPRESS FEATURES

OVER the last decade, the advent of streaming has made global cinema increasingly accessible in India. Japanese cinema, in particular, has captured the attention of a youthful Indian audience with its range from cult classics by Hayao Miyazaki to action-packed hits like *Battle Royale* and *Sonatine*. Despite this growing popularity, much of Japan's film repertoire remains largely undiscovered by global audiences. The Japanese Film Festival Online 2024, organised by the Japan Foundation India, aims to introduce these 'hidden gems' to Indian viewers.

The festival began on June 5 and until June 19, a curated selection of 23 films were showcased. This lineup included everything from remastered anime classics to heartwarming narratives. "Viewership has nearly doubled compared to the previous edition," notes Aoi Ishimaru, Director of Arts and Cultural Exchange at The Japan Foundation.

This year, Japanese cinema has enjoyed substantial international attention, with the successes of *Godzilla Minus One* and *The Boy and the Heron*. Ishimaru says the festival's diverse offerings, spanning animation, horror, drama, and romance, have been praised for their quality and uniqueness. "We aim to uncover hidden gems – excellent films that are lesser-known and not available on major OTT platforms," she says. Highlights included the premiere of the digitally remastered 1997 animated adventure film *Jungle Emperor Leo* and popular hits like *Baby Assassins*.

As the festival enters its final days, cinephiles still have the opportunity to explore compelling TV dramas, a first for the festival, available until its conclusion on July 3. Since June 19, audiences have been able to stream two critically-acclaimed dramas: *Downtown Rocket* and *Riku-Oh*. Each series, consisting of 10 episodes, explores themes of perseverance and ambition. "The decision to include TV dramas stemmed from a desire to broaden our audience's exposure to different formats of Japanese storytelling," Ishimaru explains. "While TV dramas are slowly gaining popularity in India, they are not as well-known as films. This year, we chose two blockbuster TV dramas from Japan that were very popular but not available on any OTT platform, aiming to showcase the quality of Japanese TV dramas alongside films."

(The JFFO 2024 is available at watch.jff.jpf.go.jp. The showcases are free and include subtitles in up to 16 languages)

GRUB HUB

Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales and marketing with well-known hotels, and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The first prize winner this week will win a complimentary voucher worth ₹2,000 from Caraway Kitchen, Conrad Bengaluru**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Navarin 2) Caprese Salad 3) Lutefisk

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Maria 2) Sushma Vantkar 3) Shrimant Bilkar

XPRESS FOCUS

IAS Baba Honours UPSC Achievers at Grand Felicitation

IAS Baba Institute recently organised a grand felicitation programme to honour candidates who successfully cleared the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Examination 2023. The event recognised the exceptional achievements of over 211 students from IAS Baba across the country, including 30 candidates from Karnataka.

This organisation established in 2015 Headquartered at Bengaluru, has 8 Branches across the country including Delhi ,Bhopal & Lucknow.

The chief guest for the programme was Paramapoojya Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Mahaswamiji. Addressing the event, Swamiji wished all the achievers good luck for clearing the country's highest exam.

"There are those who go to high positions, but no matter how high they go, they should get a good name in public life without stumbling. You should not abuse the power you have earned and should strive towards the prosperity of the society," he said.

S. Mohan Kumar, founder-director of IAS Baba Institute, addressed the gathering and congratulated the successful candidates. He emphasised the significance of their roles as

future civil servants and the responsibilities they hold. "Those who have passed IAS should work within the framework of the constitution without being beholden to anyone. The country expects a lot from you, and an exciting and satisfying career in public service awaits. Every good work of yours should inspire us and guide more good officers to come," said Kumar.

He further attributed the institute's consistent success in the civil service examinations to the dedicated efforts of the organisation, remarking, "Due to the hard work of the organisation, good results are obtained every year in the civil service examination."

IAS Baba Institute continues to be a guiding light in civil services coaching, committed to nurturing aspirants towards their goals in public service.

ZOR
Malam & Lotion
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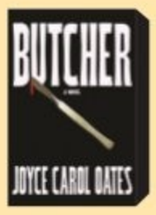
BOOK NOOK

I Shouldn't Be Telling You This [But I'm Going to Anyway]
by Chelsea Devantez

Chelsea Devantez's memoir reveals her tumultuous life and career in Hollywood with humour and honesty. From embarrassing mishaps to surviving violence, she shares stories centred around the women who shaped her, blending laughter and resilience into an unforgettable narrative.



Butcher
by Joyce Carol Oates

A disgraced Dr. Weir haunts a 19th-century asylum. His twisted experiments on women fuel an obsession with a patient, leading not to a cure but to his horrifying downfall. This mystery thriller narrates a tale of ambition and madness.

Margo's Got Money Troubles
by Rufi Thorpe

Blisteringly funny and filled with sharp insight, Margo's Got Money Troubles is a tender tale starring an endearing young heroine who's struggling to wrest money and power from a world that has little interest in giving it to her.

Loneliness & Company
by Charlee Dyroff

This sci-fi adventure follows Lee, who is tasked with a secret mission to teach an AI how to be a friend. But as she gathers data, she uncovers a hidden truth and finds herself tangled in a secret government project, combating loneliness.

CLEAN MEAL

Visitors were treated to a wide range of dishes with protein-rich tempeh at Marvelous Makers Market on Saturday. | ASWIN A

QUICKFIX

PUMPKIN PASTA

INGREDIENTS

- **Spaghetti:** 250 g
- **Butter:** 1 tbsp
- **Minced garlic:** 2
- **Pumpkin purée:** 1 cup
- **Cheddar cheese:** Handful
- **Pasta water**
- **Black pepper and salt to taste**
- **Chilli flakes**
- **Parmesan cheese:** 1/2 cup, grated

METHOD

- Cook the pasta, and keep the water aside.
- In a separate pan, add butter, garlic, pumpkin purée, and cheddar cheese.
- Season the sauce with salt, pepper, and chilli flakes.
- Add pasta and some pasta water into it.
- Mix well, and serve with some parmesan cheese.

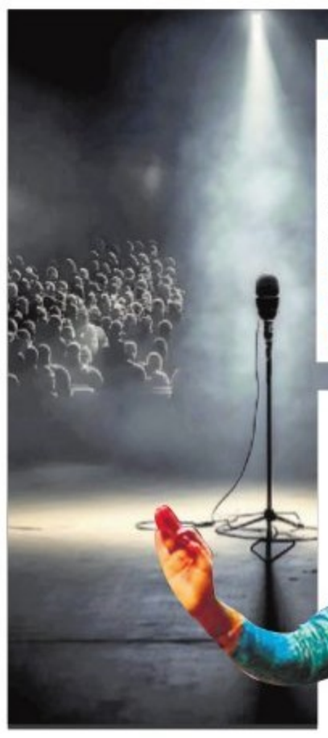
Contributed by **Lavanya S**, Chennai

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Coaster Crafting

You can paint your own canvas however you like. Unleash the artist within you to create your own unique design and have a relaxing painting session with your friends.

WHEN: July 4, 5 pm
WHERE: Art beat, HSR Layout
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com



Laugh Lounge

Experience Bengaluru's talented local comedians showcasing fresh material, with line-ups featuring seasoned English and Hindi comics. Spend a night filled with laughs and giggles at this live standup comedy event.

WHEN: July 3, 8.30 pm
WHERE: Klayworkz Barista, J P Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Artistic Sarees

Attend a saree-painting workshop and enjoy a day of creativity by painting your essence on a saree with expert guidance.

WHEN: July 2, 2 pm
WHERE: Smallworld: ST Bed, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Vocal Jam

Take your friends and family to this karaoke night and sing your heart out with others who love music just as much as you do.

WHEN: July 4, 9 pm
WHERE: Hard Rock Cafe, Whitefield
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Hidden Secrets

Experience an exciting journey by solving the mystery of the haunted house and put an end to the disappearance of people.

WHEN: July 2, 11 am
WHERE: Mystery Room, Whitefeild **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Blissful Dance

Experience a dance show depicting the eternal love tale of Krishna, Radha, and the Gopis in Vrindavan. This production blends classical dances, music, and storytelling, bringing to life themes of devotion, longing, and profound love from India's rich cultural and spiritual traditions.

WHEN: July 2, 7 pm
WHERE: Bengaluru International Center, Domlur
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Strings & Beats

Join the guitar jamming workshop to experience the joy of playing the guitar. Learn notes from mentors and enjoy a group jamming session, creating lasting memories and lifelong learning experiences. **WHEN:** July 3, 7 pm **WHERE:** Bloom Activity Center, SLR Arcade. **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

DR VIVEK ARORA
drvivekarora@hotmail.com

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

My bunny is litter-trained, but when moved to a different location with his litter box, he doesn't follow his training. Is there a remedy for this?

It's great to know that your bunny is litter-trained. A common reason for bunnies to litter outside their litter box in a new or different location is due to the unfamiliarity of the environment, which causes them to change their learned behaviour in a new place. They also try to mark territory at a new place, especially with unneutered rabbits. To overcome such a behavioural problem, I suggest you provide him with multiple litter boxes so that, as he explores a new area, he will find enough opportunities to use the litter box. Bring a familiar litter box with a familiar scent to make him comfortable. Unfortunately, if the above attempts fail, then you may have to confine the bunny and gradually increase the area of exploration.

ASK AN XPERT

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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FITBIT

DIAPHRAGMATIC BREATHING

This is a breathing exercise that engages your diaphragm, an important muscle that enables you to breathe. Forming part of pranayama, in this breathing, with each inhalation, the diaphragm contracts along with the expansion of the thoracic cavity. And with each exhalation, the thoracic cavity drops to a resting position while the diaphragm elevates back to its dome-shaped position.

STEPS

- Start the practice by either sitting on a chair or on the floor in Sukhasana (Easy Pose).
- Loosen the neck and shoulders, and stay here for about 20 seconds.
- Place one hand on your chest (on the sternum) and the other below the rib cage, close to the navel.
- Take deep breaths and expand the abdominal area (like a balloon).
- While breathing, focus on the centre of your forehead and feel the stomach moving in and out along the hand placed right below the rib cage.
- Inhale, watch, and ensure that the other hand does not move much on the chest.
- Inhale, hold for a few seconds and then slowly contract the belly pushing the diaphragm. With expansion, the lungs will contract and exhale.
- While exhaling, the neck and shoulders should be kept in a comfortable position. Hold for a few seconds before inhaling again.
- Inhale and exhale in a rhythmic way for about 6-8 breaths. Initially, it would be a challenge to breathe deeply and stay connected to the body's movement, but gradually, this will become natural and easy.
- Keep the back straight, facial muscles, shoulders, and neck relaxed. This can be done at the beginning of the session and then at the end, but before pranayama and meditation.
- Initially, this can be done twice a day for about 3 minutes. Gradually, you can increase it to 5 minutes.
- It can be done in supine position to have better awareness.

BENEFITS

- Strengthens the diaphragm and reduces the dependence on heavy breathing.
- Slows down the heart rate.
- Calms the parasympathetic nervous system, reduces stress, and aids in dealing with symptoms related to depression.
- Keeps the body and mind calm.
- Benefits students suffering from insomnia or disturbed sleep.
- Deep breathing enables the proper and sufficient flow of prana throughout the body.
- Improves digestion, helps with irritable bowel syndrome, reduces constipation, and aids with the better functioning of the gut.
- Can be used as an alternative treatment for certain ailments.
- Helps reduce symptoms related to certain illnesses, like pain, low immunity, resistance, tolerance, low confidence, etc.
- As it is a part of pranayama, this breathing exercise will help you during meditation.
- Enables the students to become more aware of their body, thoughts, emotions, and sensations.
- Helps achieve overall improved health and mental balance.

LIMITATIONS

- Students who have undergone heart surgery or are recovering from heart issues should take it slow.
- If you are recovering from damage to the rib cage, spinal injury, fractures of the collar bone, severe osteoporosis, neck or head injury, or have a history of acute asthma or tuberculosis, or deep and slow breathing or suffocation, avoid this.
- Pregnant women should avoid practising this kind of breathing.
- Students diagnosed with dyspnea (a condition of slow breathing) should practise with care.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

ARTCORNER

COLOURFUL BLOOMS

In this artwork as part of her 'Ananda' exhibition, artist Sunayana Malhotra showcases a painting that is inspired by the ephemeral beauty of lotuses.

REFLECTING ON Love

As she gears up for the release of her EP called In My Asymmetry, singer-songwriter Frizzell D'Souza speaks about two songs from the EP that were recently put out

Cover of the EP

I was approached to create an EP that talks about unconventional types of love, something that goes beyond the romantic. Platonic love; the bond you share with family; or even self-love are ideas that I have explored

Frizzell D'Souza, singer-songwriter

MONIKA MONALISA

POP singer-songwriter **Frizzell D'Souza**'s recently released *Long to Be*, the second song from her EP, In My Asymmetry. Having been working on it for months now, she is still sinking in the euphoria of actually completing it. "I'm still getting used to it...as an artiste who has written the song and listened to it over and over again, it feels great that others will now be listening to it. The fact that people are connecting to the lyrics that I wrote pertaining to my life is interesting," says D'Souza.

The entire EP is about love, which goes beyond a name, relationship or condition. "I was approached to create an EP that talks about unconventional types of love, something that goes beyond the romantic," says D'Souza. Initially sceptical about the theme, the singer thought it was not her 'thing' but after much mulling, the idea gradually began appealing to her. "Platonic love; the bond you share with family; or even self-love are ideas that I have explored. That's In my Asymmetry in a nutshell."

Not just the music, the video, too, looks promising with its visuals. "I credit that to my degree in architecture," she says with a laugh. "As much as it is about the music, it is also about the presentation. I didn't want any piece of music that was going out to feel like something casual. I wanted my audience to feel that the whole package has been looked into," she explains.

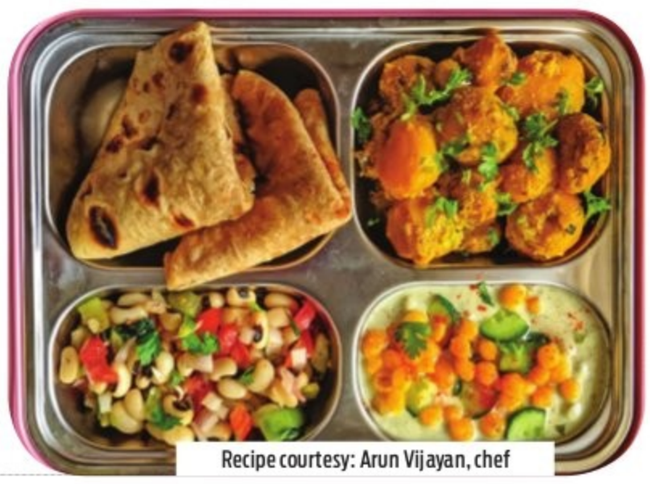
D'Souza's first EP was released in 2022, after which she has been busy with live performances. "Post my debut album, I wanted to focus on performing live in 2023. I started writing music during the pandemic, and worked on live performances at the same time. I put together my band in May '23 and we did a debut show in Bengaluru," she says.

The first song that she released was Symmetries which was an opener for her next EP In My Asymmetry that will be out on July 17.

PACKED WITH LOVE

CE explores some refreshing lunchbox ideas to keep school children nourished and satisfied throughout the day

CHAPATI, ALOO AND SALAD



Recipe courtesy: Arun Vijayan, chef

FOR ALOO JEERA

Boiled potatoes: 150 g

Chopped onions: 30 g

Salt to taste

Chopped onions: 20 g

Chopped coriander: 3 g

Cumin seeds: 5 g

Chopped tomatoes: 10 g

Sunflower oil: 40 ml

Chopped garlic : 3 g

Heat sunflower oil in a pan and temper with mustard seeds. Add chopped garlic and onion, sauté it until golden brown colour. Add the tomatoes, salt and boiled potato cubes. Stir fry for a few minutes and finish with chopped coriander.

FOR CHAPATI

Wheat flour : 500 g

Salt to taste

Warm water : 750 ml, Ghee: 50 ml

In a bowl, add wheat flour, salt, ghee and 400 ml of water. Mix it and keep it aside for 15 minutes. Add the rest of the water and mix well. Place the dough on a flat surface and knead it well until the texture becomes smooth and has a medium-tight consistency. Make small balls with the dough. Roll the chapati balls using with roller and wheat flour. Cook both the sides of the chapati for 2 to 3 minutes

FOR CHANNA CUCUMBER YOGURT

- Curd:100 ml
- Boiled white channa: 30 g
- Sliced cucumber: 20 g
- Chilli powder: 3 g
- Salt to taste
- Chopped coriander: 2 pinch

- Mix all the ingredients, season with salt and garnish with chilli powder.

FOR WHITE BEAN SALAD

- Boiled white beans:100 g
- Chopped cucumber: 10 g
- Chopped tomatoes: 5 g
- Chopped coriander: 2 pinch
- Salt to taste
- Chopped onions: 10 g

- Mix the all ingredients and season with salt
- Arrange the all of these in a tiffinbox and enjoy your lunch.

CHICKEN MACARONI

Recipe courtesy: Nisha Kiran, entrepreneur

Ingredients

- Macaroni: 250 g
- Boneless chicken: 200 g (cut into thin strips)
- Mixed vegetables (broccoli, carrots, beans, capsicums) 150 g
- Chicken cube: 1
- Pepper: 1 tsp
- Mixed herbs: 1 tbsp
- Butter: 1 tbsp

Method: Boil macaroni with enough water and half teaspoon of salt. Cook until al dente. Drain the water and set aside. In a pan add 4 tablespoons of oil, vegetables and fry for 3 minutes. Add chicken and fry for another 3 minutes. Add the chicken cube, pepper, mixed herbs and a tablespoon of butter. Serve.

TUNA CUCUMBER SANDWICH

Ingredients

- Cooked white tuna: 150 g
- Mayonnaise: 40 g
- Cucumber: 100 g
- Bread slices: 4

Method

Drain the tuna well. In a bowl, mix tuna and mayo. Season it with salt and black pepper. Lay out slices of bread. Spread the tuna on two of the slices. Make sure to distribute the sandwich filling evenly. Add the cucumber slices on top, slightly overlapping. Top each sandwich with another slice of bread. Cut them in half. Enjoy immediately or transfer to kids' tiffin containers for later use.

CHANNA RICE AND FRUITS

INGREDIENTS

Mango: 180 g, Cherry: 5 no

Cucumber: 5 slices, Yogurt: 100 g, Basmati rice: 100 g

Boiled channa: 150 g

Turmeric powder: 3 g

Chopped coriander: 2 g

Salt to taste, Water : 180 ml

Sunflower oil: 40 ml, Cumin seeds: 4 g

Finely sliced onion: 10 g, Lemon juice: 5 ml

METHOD

Wash and soak rice. Heat oil in a rice pot, temper cumin seeds and add sliced onion. Add salt, turmeric and water. Allow it to boil and then add the soaked rice and cook for a few minutes until the rice comes to the level of water. Cover and cook for 10 minutes on slow heat. Turn off the flame and keep it resting for a minimum of 30 minutes. Open the lid after 30 minutes add the chopped coriander and mix well. Serve the rice in a tiffin box, arrange with mango cubes, cherry and sliced cucumber.

Gems full of flavour

INDIGENOUS to southern Europe and the Mediterranean region, pomegranate, the red-rich fruit, is considered to be a nutrient-dense and healthy fruit. In India, it finds a home in many states, with major hubs in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, among others. Ideally, it flourishes in hot, dry summers and endures alkaline and moist soils, growing at elevations of up to 1,600 meters above sea level.

Pomegranate boasts numerous uses. Its dried seeds serve as a flavourful spice in many dishes, while its juice serves as a refreshing beverage. Medicinally, its rind is used in the treatment of chronic dysentery, while its pulp and seeds act as stomach tonics and laxatives. Additionally, the flower buds are known to manage bronchitis.

The pomegranate stands as a versatile addition to both culinary and medicinal landscapes, enriching diets and offering therapeutic benefits across the globe.

Courtesy: Spice Board of India

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **HARISHA SRINIVASA RAO S/O SRINIVASA RAO GURURAJA RAO** R/at No. 3/4/24, srinidhi, Ground floor 7th cross, Hanumagiri layout, chikkalasandr,BSK3rd stage Padmanabha Nagar Bangalore 560061 have changed my name to **HARISH SRINIVASA RAO** Vide affidavit dated: 29/6/2024 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VIDUSHI PRASAD**, W/o Mr. Rishi Kumar Gupta, D/o Late Mr. Diwaker Prasad Jayaswal, age 47 years, R/at Flat no. C-213, SLS Spring Apts, HSR Layout Sector-2, Haralur, Bangalore-560 012 do hereby declare that I have changed my son's name from **CHIRANTH** to **CHITRARATH GUPTA**, henceforth he shall be known and called as **CHITRARATH GUPTA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 26th June 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **PRAKASHA .C** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MAHALAKSHMI**, W/o Rahul K A, age 30 years, R/at No. 003, Ground Floor, Shaswathi Residency, Kamakshi Layout, Gottigere, Bengaluru-560 083 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **LAKSHMI NAGARAJ** to **MAHALAKSHMI**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **MAHALAKSHMI** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 29th June 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **R.S. VIJAY** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ATEEQ UR RAHMAN** S/o Abdul Khadeer, R/at #41, Behind Jamiya Masid Compound, Yeshwanthpura, Bangalore North, Bangalore do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ATEEQ UR REHAMN** to **ATEEQ UR RAHMAN,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **ATEEQ UR RAHMAN** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 29-6-2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MALLIKARJUNA C,** at Tumkur.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **C. Lokesh** aged about 54 years S/O Sri.Chikkabhathyappa, residing at No14, 4th main, 8th C Cross, Sanjeevininagar, Bangalore North, Nagarabhavi Post, Bangalore-560072, have changed my minor son's name from **GAURAV. L to MOKSHITH PRADHAN. L,** vide affidavit dated 24/6/2024 sworn to before H.H.Nagaraj advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PRABHU D,** S/o. V. Damo -daran, resident of No.56, Vasanthappa Garden,Doopana halli, Indiranagar, HAL II Stage, Bengaluru-560008have changed my name from **PRABHU D** to **PRABHU D SOLOMON**, vide affidavit dated 29/06/2024 sworn before notary H.G Padmanabha Rao, Reg. No.12464, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, ARUNKUMARA.P (old name) S/O.PUTTACHARI, Aged about 36 years, Residing at No. 42, Sorahunase Varthur, Near Kalamma Temple, Varthur, Bengaluru-560087 have changed my name to **ARUN KUMAR. P (NEW NAME)** Vide an Affidavit dated 27.06.2024 before the Notary **G. DAYANANDA** BENGALURU 560 003

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) VENKATARAMA KUMAR KURPAD** Residing at No. S/o Subramanyam Kurpad, No.13, Shohan Nilaya, 4th Cross, Jigenahalle, Vivekananda Nagara, Ramanagaram - 562159. Have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) VENKATARAMA KUMAR KURPAD** to **(NEW NAME) KURPA VENKATRAM KUMAR** Vide affidavid Dated 14.06.2024 Sworn Before Notary KC Shashikala.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **Mr. VINEET .N,** age 35 years and Mrs. EKTA, age 33 years, Both R/at No. 3, Flat No. 3/8, 4th Floor, K.R. Road, Mandoth Residency, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004 do hereby declare that we have changed our daughter's name from **DHYANA** to **DHYANA VINEET MANDOTH,** henceforth she shall be known and called as **DHYANA VINEET MANDOTH** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 19th March 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MAMATHA .N.K** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SRILATHA H.N,** W/o Ravi Pawar, age 47 years, R/at No. 006, 1st Floor, S.M.L. Urban Touch Apartments, Kodigehalli, Bengaluru-560 097 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **SRILATHA PAWAR** and **SRILATHA H.N** are one and the same and refers to me only, now I have changed my name from **SRILATHA PAWAR** to **SRILATHA H.N,** vide affidavit dated 28th June 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **L.B. ANASUYAMMA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ABDUL KHADEER** S/o Vardi Vazeer Ahmed, R/at #41, Behind Jamiya Masid Compound, Yeshwanthpura, Bangalore North, Bangalore do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ABDUL QADIR** to **ABDUL KHADEER,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **ABDUL KHADEER** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 29-6-2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MALLIKARJUNA C,** at Tumkur.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) VASUDHA SHETTAR** Residing at # 234, "Varchas" Paduka Mandira Road, BHCS Layout, Uttarahalli, Banashankari 4th State, Bangalore-560 061, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) VASUDHA SHETTAR** to **(NEW NAME) VASUDHA VINAYGOPAL** vide affidavit dated 27.06.2024 sworn before Notary Mohammed Hussain.K Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAVIKUMAR K.M** S/o Marahanumaiah, aged about 39 yrs, Residing at Near Shanimahthma Temple, Kenchanapalya, Kumbalgodu Gollahalli post, Bangalore South-560060, have changed my name from **GAGAN. R** to **ABHAY SURYA. A,** vide affidavit dated 26/6/2024 sworn to before R.S.Vijay advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KRITIKA MISHRA,** D/o Vishnu Mishra, R@ Map Qtr 229 /13,Command Hospital Airforce,B'lore-07 have changed my name to **KRTIKA MISHRA to KRITIKA MISHRA** vide affidavit # KA38816591142218W before the Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, vide affidavit dt 24-6-24,B'lore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANIL KUMAR B, residing at #2, 9th A Main, Devi Circle, Chowdeshwarinagar, Chikkabettahalli, Vidyaranyapura, BENGALURU 560097, have changed my minor daughter's name from SRILEKHA** (OLD NAME) to **SRILEKHA ANIL KUMAR** (NEW NAME) vide affidavit dated 20th June 2024 before notary KUNDAN BABU M, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) DILEEPA SUBRAHMANYA** Residing at No. S/o Subramanya, No.5/13, 4th Cross, Manjunatha Layout, SLV Bakery Road, Chinnaganahalli, Bidare Agrahara, Virgonagar, Bangalore - 560049. Have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) DILEEPA SUBRAHMANYA** to **(NEW NAME) DILEEP SUBRAMANYA** vide Affidavi dated 27.06.2024 Sworn before Notary KC Shashikala

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PILOMINA REETA,** W/o J Alphonse, age 71 years, R/at No. 98/4, Narayanappa Road, Ramaswamy Palya, Banglaore North, Bangalore-560 033 do hereby declare that all the names i.e. **PILOMINA REEET, PHILOMINA RITA .J, PHILOMEENA REETA .J, J. PHILOMENA RITA, J. PHILOMEENA RITA** and **PHILOMINA RITA** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **PILOMINA REETA** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 29-06-2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **R.S. VIJAY** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **BALAJI THIRUKONDA SATHIYACHANDRAN @ BALAJI SATHIYACHANDRAN,** age 38 years, S/o Sri Sathiyachandran Thirukonda Rajagopalaiyer and Smt. Usharani Thirukonda Sathiyachandran, R/at Site No. 1815, 24th Main, 1st Cross, 1st Floor, Nisarga Layout, Sector 3, Harapanahalli, Bengaluru Rural, do hereby declare that in all my documents my name mentioned as **T.S. BALAJI,** where my surname is **THIRUKONDA SATHIYACHANDRAN,** but in my passport, my name is mentioned as **BALAJI** and my surname is entered as **SATHYACHANDRAN,** vide affidavit dated 28th June 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MUNISWAMY .T** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Service No.10291276H, Rank Hav **Dileep Kumar P** of Unit 1014 DSC PL, HAL, Bangalore, C/o 56 APO, do hereby declare that in my Service Records my Daughters name was wrongly /erroneously recorded as **Adithya Dileep** instead of **Adithya Dileep D** as per Birth Certificate and School Document, Hence I have Changed my daughters name to **Adithya Dileep D** vide Affividavit Dated 28th June 2024 before Notary Guna Shekar, Bengaluru- 560005

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAVIKUMAR K.M** S/o Marahanumaiah, aged about 39 yrs, Residing at Near Shanimahthma Temple, Kenchanapalya, Kumbalgodu Gollahalli post, Bangalore South-560060, have changed my name from **RAVIKUMAR K.M** to **ARUN RAVI,** vide affidavit dated 26/6/2024 sworn to before R.S.Vijay advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **NAMRATA VIVEK** Wife of Vivek Anavatti aged about 37 Years, residing at No.427, Ground Floor, 16th Cross, 4th Phase, J.P. Nagar, Bengaluru-560 078 & Holder of Aadhar Card No.8797 1365 3825, have changed my name from **Namrata Chinmulgund** to **NAMRATA VIVEK,** vide affidavit dated 27/6/2024 sworn to before G Dayananda advocate and notary Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUSHEELA DEVI,** M/o Vishnu Mishra, R@ Map Qtr 229 /13,Command Hospital Airforce, B'lore-07 have changed my name to **SUSHILA DEVI to SUSHEELA DEVI** vide affidavit # KA38816071743254W before the Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Vide affidavit dt 24-6-24,B'lore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUSHEELAMMA,** is legally wedded spouse of No.7766193Y, Rank: Naik, Name: Venkataramanaiah Ramachandraiah, Residing at Village: Nethenahalli, Post: Kasaba Hobli, Magadi Taluk: Magadi, District: Ramanagar, State: Karnataka 562120, have changed my name from **SUSHEELAMMA to SUSHEELAMMA P R,** vide affidavit dated: 29.06.2024 before Notary L Gopalakrishna, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) AISHWARYA NARAYANA RAO** Residing at No.D/o B Narayana Rao, No.213, Trupthi LIG CITB HUDCO, 2nd Stage, Kuvempunagara, Mysore - 570023. Have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) AISHWARYA NARAYANA RAO** to **(NEW NAME) SARIKA RAO** vide affidavit dated 21.06.2024 sworn before Notary KC Shashikala.

'I am in the Bagheera hangover even after its wrap-up'

says Sriimurali, who, undeterred by injuries endured during filming, is happy that the Dr Suri's directorial produced by Hombale Films has shaped up on a grand scale

A SHARADHAA

WITH the shooting of *Bagheera* wrapped up a few days ago, the film's hero Sriimurali and director Dr Suri feel that a weight has been lifted off their shoulders. "It feels like a mission has been completed, just waiting for the final accomplishment, and working towards release," says Suri, returning to the director's chair after a hiatus since his last film, *Lucky*. *Bagheera* is an important film for the team, as the story has been penned by *KGF* director, Prashanth Neel, with dialogue and screenplay by Dr Suri. Produced by Vijay Kiragandur's Hombale Films banner, the action suspense drama made in Kannada will also be released in multiple languages this year. Currently in the post-production stage, the makers are yet to lock the release date for *Bagheera*.

The film also stars Rukmini Vasanth in her first collaboration with Sriimurali, along with Achyuth Kumar, Rangayana Raghu, Prakash Raj, and others in key roles. The film has Ajaneesh Loknath's music and AJ Shetty's cinematography.

For Sriimurali, who will once again don the khaki in *Bagheera*, the shooting experience was a roller coaster ride, with numerous challenges and experiences. "I don't remember the number of injuries I endured during the film's shoot. Equally the number of schedules, locations, and action sequences. Wrapping up, I felt like I am just out of a fantasy world," Sriimurali recalls, undeterred by his injuries. "Despite delays caused by injuries, I was focused on the project," he adds.

Reflecting on the intense shooting schedule, Sriimurali admitted to being hungover from *Bagheera*. "I lost track of time. Even after we wrapped shooting, I was thinking about the next day's scenes until my wife reminded me it was over," he chuckles. "I have dedicated two to three years to *Bagheera* and it is no joke. It consumed everything, but for good reason. The scale and planning have made it a massive project," he says. Looking ahead, Sriimurali plans to take a brief break before starting his next film, *Parak*, an action suspense thriller with director Halesh Kogudi. "I'm also finalising and streamlining other scripts," he concludes.

Dr Suri on the sets of *Bagheera*

> *I have dedicated two to three years to Bagheera and it is no joke. It consumed everything, but for good reason. The scale and planning have made it a massive project* –Sriimurali, actor

A film like *Kalki 2898 AD* paves the way for more creative storytelling : Yash

CE FEATURES

PRABHAS'S latest outing, the Nag Ashwin directorial *Kalki 2898 AD,* which was released in multiple languages on June 28, has struck a chord with audiences and critics alike, earning widespread acclaim for its stunning visuals and performances.

Amidst the chorus of praises from actors and viewers alike, Rocking Star Yash has also shared his thoughts on the film. Currently immersed in the making of his next big project Toxic, directed by Geethu Mohandas, Yash took to his social media platforms to commend Nag Ashwin's vision and the stellar cast of *Kalki 2898 AD*.

Yash wrote on his official X handle, "The combination of powerhouse performances and unexpected cameos creates an unforgettable cinematic experience." He further added, "Kudos to the Kalki 2898 AD team for creating a visually stunning spectacle! This film paves the way for more creative storytelling. Nag Ashwin and Vyjayanthi Films, your vision and courage will inspire many to take bigger strides."

Yash's appreciation for the film also detailed his admiration for Prabhas, Amitabh Bachchan, Kamal Haasan, Deepika Padukone, and the actors who appeared in cameo roles, which enriched the viewing experience. "Congratulations to everyone involved in bringing this film together - it truly lights up the screen!" he concluded.

Kalki 2898 AD is distributed by KVN Productions in Karnataka. The film has music composed by Santhosh Narayanan, cinematography by Djordje Stojiljkovic, and editing by Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao, adding further technical prowess to this cinematic spectacle.

Yash

Sreeleela all set to foray into Bollywood with two major projects

The actor is set to make her foray into Bollywood alongside Varun Dhawan, and also star in another project with Ibrahim Khan

CE FEATURES

SREELEELA seems to be following in Rashmika Mandanna's footsteps. Starting with her debut in Kannada with A P Arjun's *KISS*, followed by *Bharaate* starring Sriimurali, and By Two Love with Dhanverrah, she ventured into the Telugu film industry and made her mark with *Pelli SandaDi* and starred in films like *Aadikeshava, Dhamaka,* and *Guntur Karam*. Currently, she is immersed in filming *Robinhood, Ustad Bhagat Singh,* and *RT75*. Mirroring Rashmika's journey, Sreeleela is now set to make her Bollywood debut alongside Varun Dhawan in Mumbai, where she is diligently preparing for her role. Adding to the excitement, our sources reveal she will next share the screen with Ibrahim Khan, Saif Ali Khan's son, for her sophomore Hindi film.

While Sreeleela's involvement in these significant Hindi projects is confirmed, the makers are yet to make an official announcement. They are expected to disclose more details soon. Additionally, there are strong indications that she will soon venture into Tamil cinema, having been approached for an upcoming project.

Sreeleela

Ibrahim Khan

Varun Dhawan

Indrajit Lankesh's *Gowri* locks release date

CE FEATURES

FILMMAKER Indrajit Lankesh, who last directed the Bollywood venture *Shakeela*, is returning to theatres with his next directorial, *Gowri*. This film serves as a significant launch platform for his son, Samarjit Lankesh. The film has now officially locked August 15, Independence Day as its release date. The announcement was made at a grand event recently, setting the stage for a release that takes advantage of the holiday weekend. The film will hit theatres alongside two other films: *Krishnam Prayana Sakhi,* starring Ganesh, and *Powder,* starring Diganth

Gowri, based on true events, introduces Sanya Iyer on the silver screen as the female lead. *Gowri* features an ensemble cast including Sweezal, Chandu Gowda, and other notable actors in key roles. The film has been generating buzz for its musical compositions. With music directors Jassie Gift and Chandan Shetty composing the music, the film will feature cinematography by AJ Shetty.

Sanya Iyer and Samarjit Lankesh

Hiranya's latest song 'Nanagantaane' gives a touching tribute to maternal love

CE FEATURES

RAJAVARDHAN'S upcoming film *Hiranya* is scheduled to release on July 19. As the film's post-production is nearing completion, the makers unveiled a new song titled 'Nanagantaane' by Judah Sandy, which pays homage to maternal love.

Hiranya is billed as an action-packed drama with a strong emotional core. Rajavardhan will be seen in an action-hero avatar, with seven significant fight scenes, choreographed by Vinod and Arjun.

Hiranya marks the feature film directorial debut of Praveen Avyuk who is known for his short films. Produced by Vigneshwar and Vijay Kumar under the Vedas Infinite Pictures banner, the film will feature cinematography by Yogeswaran R. Rihana will play the female lead, while former *Bigg Boss* contestant Divya Suresh, Huli Karthik, Arvind Rao and Dilip Shetty will feature in supporting roles.

Meanwhile, the makers have locked July 19 as the film's release date